

HISTORY

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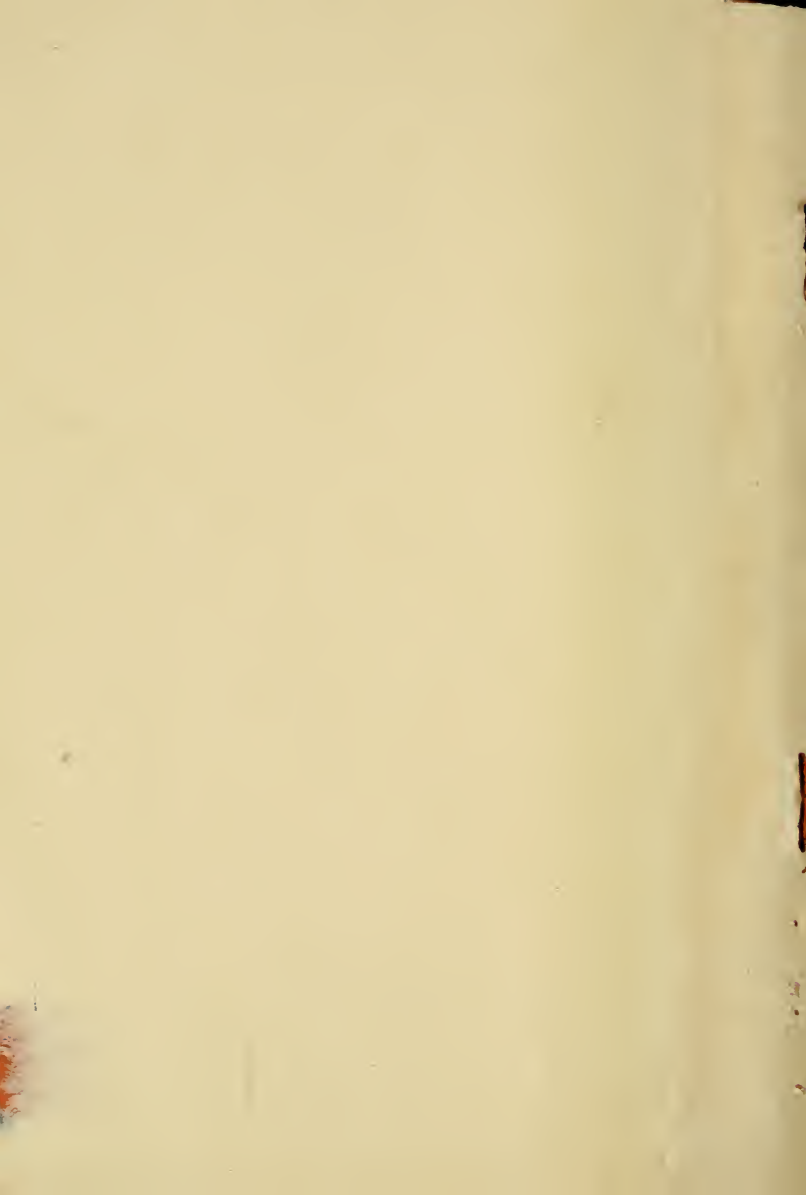
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

OF THE

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

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HISTORY
OF THE
WOMAN'S FOREIGN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE
METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

BY
MRS. M. A. MILLER.

INTRODUCTION BY
REV. J. J. MURRAY, D. D.

1896.
WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, PITTSBURG, PA.

*"Give love, give tears, and give thyself;
The more we give
The more we live."*

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PRESS OF
F. C. HULING,
KANSAS CITY.

TO THE MEMORY OF

MRS. ELIZA SANDS,

whose earnest efforts in behalf of the women of heathen countries first inspired a desire in the hearts of many in our beloved church to aid in sending the Gospel to benighted lands;

AND TO THE MEMORY OF

MRS. MARTHA P. BOOTH CLANEY,

who was early associated with the foreign mission work of the Methodist Protestant Church, and who was always abounding in the work of the Lord;

AND TO THE FAITHFUL HELPERS

throughout the church, this record of Woman's Missionary Work is lovingly and gratefully dedicated by

THE AUTHOR.

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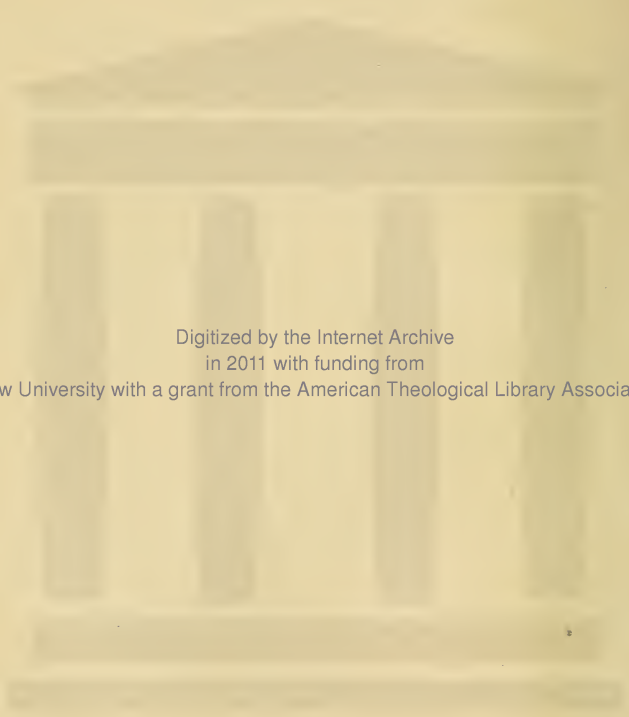
PREFATORY NOTE.

"The true history of any great movement is the history of the men and women who were leaders in it."

In the following pages the purpose has been to give a consecutive account of the rise and growth of an organization which has done much toward uniting and cementing the thoughts and purposes of the Christian women of the church in efforts for evangelization in the "regions beyond." This record of events and persons was written in answer to numerous inquiries for information concerning the Society's work, and which inquiries prompted the author to a desire to collect the facts which enter into its history while the active participants were still living and to preserve them in permanent form. The greater part of this record was written while the author was living in Pittsburg, Pa., and associated with the originators of the movement. To her it is far from being a satisfactory record and doubtless it will prove so to others. Some will look in vain, perhaps, for a recognition of work in which they faithfully bore a part, and may find, instead, a record of events which they may deem unworthy of notice. But withal there has been a conscientious effort made to transcribe the record faithfully, and with the earnest desire that this little volume may be kindly received and be a benefit to the Society under whose direction it has been completed, it is herewith submitted by

THE AUTHOR.

KANSAS CITY, KAN., APRIL 24th, 1896.



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INTRODUCTION.

To any one that knows the author of this volume, it is needless to say that in preparing it for the press she performed a labor of love. Associated with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church from the beginning, one of the most devoted and laborious of its members, giving time and money, planning, praying, travelling day and night in its service, rejoicing in its prosperity, sad, sometimes with weeping, and sometimes with sorrow too deep for tears when unexpected hinderances tried the faith and hope of its members, she has waited and watched through all the years of its history for the accomplishment of its beneficent results.

And now she brings her latest offering to the cause—a volume, not to be estimated by the number of its pages or the costliness of its adorning, but by the patient research, the painstaking endeavor to give accurate information, the interesting nature of the facts collected, arranged and preserved for future reference, the stimulus that such facts must prove to those that are enlisted in the cause, and the encouraging review it presents of the results of labors begun in feebleness, but made effective by Divine power, notwithstanding the almost continuous struggle with difficulties which the Society had to maintain,

Seldom, if ever, do we know, when we venture upon an undertaking with which we are not familiar, to what proportions the work will grow. As little do we know what trials will be encountered, what hours of anxiety will follow, what perplexities, opposition and disappointment will ensue; or what encouragement, consolation and visions of ultimate satisfaction will sustain and give strength to persevere and overcome. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was undertaken in faith, under a sense of obligation to Him

who gave the command to preach the gospel to every creature, and in compassion for women and children living in the darkness and exposed to the horrors of heathenism.

To what extent the wishes of the founders have been realized, to what proportions the work has grown, this history will reveal in part. What harvests will yet repay the patient toilers, what satisfaction will reward their travail, what hallelujahs will proclaim its grand achievements, the future must reveal. The record of the past shows that the devoted women of this Society, as well as the heathen in whose behalf they undertook their labors, have been blessed in their doing. The field of their vision has been enlarged, their sympathies have been intensified, their latent powers called into activity; they have become more or less familiar with modes and means of church work with which they had little acquaintance; they have grown into a more mature, vigorous and satisfactory Christian womanhood; and in view of what they have been enabled to accomplish they may well "thank God and take courage."

A grain of mustard seed is a little thing, yet under favoring conditions it becomes a tree to which the fowls of heaven resort for shelter. Small as a grain of mustard seed was the Society in its feeble beginning. But it had life within itself. It grew, and already has become a plant of honorable fame. And if wise counsels shall prevail in the future—if in the spirit of love, and patience, and with humble dependence on Him who giveth the increase, the members shall go on in their work, resolved that Christ shall be exalted, whatever may befall themselves, it will become more and more "a shelter under which the weary and sorrow-stricken shall find repose."

To the generous consideration of the Church, asking its prayers for the book, its author, and the Society in behalf of which it is published, this volume is cordially commended.

JOHN J. MURRAY.

UNION BRIDGE, MD., APRIL 23, 1896.

HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

The inspiration which led to the organization of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church, on February fourteenth, 1879, was given by Miss L. M. Guthrie, a missionary of the Woman's Union Missionary Society for Heathen Lands, who had been laboring for several years in Japan and who had returned to her native land for rest.

In writing a sketch of the Society there comes before us at the outset a beautiful instance of the providence of God in bringing together two events which bore with them an influence so great that we cannot afford to let them drop from the historic record. As a pebble cast into the brook causes the water to ripple and form a succession of waves, each widening its circle till the shore is reached, so these events, small in themselves, created waves of influence, the widening effect of which is still going on and eternity alone will reveal the results.

The events referred to are as follows: There appeared one day at the Woman's Union Mission Home in Yokohama, Japan, two little girls asking for shelter and protection. Already the Woman's Board was taxed to the utmost of its financial ability, and the teachers, following instructions from America, were receiving no more pupils; but these two children, wretched and forlorn, so touched the heart of Miss Guthrie that she begged the teachers to keep the girls for a day or two to see if anything could be done for them, for to refuse them was to consign them to lives of shame. Many hours of the night were spent by Miss Guthrie in prayer that God might influence the hearts of some in the home land to help these children, and what was her joy when the next mail came in to find a letter from the Woman's Union Missionary Society containing an application for two girls to be supported by a Sunday school of the Methodist Protestant Church at Springfield, Ohio. These two scholarships were not the first ones taken by our church, but what impressed the mind of Miss Guthrie was the opportune answer to prayer; and she resolved that when she should return to America she would find some of the members of our church and tell them of the good being done through their efforts.

While visiting in Pittsburg, Penna., in January 1879, she attended the annual meeting of the Woman's Christian Association and addressed the members in the interests of Foreign Missions. At the close of the meeting several ladies lingered to talk with the returned missionary, one of whom, Mrs. N. B. O'Neil, was introduced by Mrs. Brunot, the president of the Association, as "one of our Methodist Protestant ladies." "How very glad I am to meet you," said Miss Guthrie, "I have been seeking an opportunity to meet with some of your church members ever since my return from Japan."

Then followed an acquaintance which led to Miss Guthrie's being introduced to the Methodist Protestant preachers of Pittsburg and vicinity, at their Monday morning meeting, and afterwards to a few ladies of the city churches. These ladies decided to call a meeting, and in pursuance of this decision the Sunday following a notice was read from the various Methodist Protestant pulpits of Pittsburg and vicinity, requesting the ladies to meet to consider the organizing of a woman's foreign missionary society. The outcome of the meeting was the organization of the Society on the fourteenth of February, 1879, as stated on our first page.

EARLIEST RECORDS.

In writing a history of the Society we find its work

so intimately connected with that of the Church's Board of Foreign Missions, that the history of one cannot be written independent of the other; therefore it will not be amiss to glance backward to the very beginning of effort on the part of the church to establish her foreign missions.

At the first General Conference, which was held in Baltimore, Md., in 1834, just six years after our church had set up her denominational standard, the Board of Home and Foreign Missions was formed and located in that city; but the denomination—an infant in years—found so much to do in organizing her conferences, establishing churches, and all needful appliances for denominational effort, that nothing practical was attempted in a foreign field for several years. In 1850 the Board was removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, having for its members the honored names of William Collier, Charles Avery, George Brown, John Cowl, John Scott, John L. Sands, William J. Troth, John Mecasky, William Miller, J. W. Phillips, Thompson Hanna, Matthew M. Laughlin.

The very first effort of the denomination in foreign work, of which we have any knowledge, was made through the benevolence of Rev. Charles Avery, a wealthy member of the First Church, Pittsburg, Pa., also, a mem-

ber of the Board of Foreign Missions, and a man who was deeply interested in the African race. A mission colony of colored people, with their pastor, was sent from America to Liberia and maintained for several years as the Mendi Mission, but at Mr. Avery's death, in 1858, it was transferred to the United Brethren Church, which had established missions there.

Nothing further was attempted till about 1850, when the Board believing that the church was able to sustain a missionary in some heathen land selected China as its field. A call was made for a missionary, and the Rev. David Wilson, of the Maryland Conference responded and was accepted. But unforeseen difficulties arising prevented his going. The funds on hand were then used in sending Rev. Daniel Bagley to Oregon, in which Territory he commenced his labors in 1852, where he pioneered the work of the church and is yet actively engaged in labors for her welfare.

Up to the year 1872 no united or definite foreign work had been done by the denomination, although churches in different parts of the country had undertaken to raise money for the spread of the Gospel; noticeably those of the Maryland Conference, which for several years had been co-operating with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, the

movement having been begun in East Baltimore Station through the influence of Mrs. J. T. Murray, Miss Jane Roberts and others zealous in the work. At this time the Rev. Dr. Collier, stationed in Connellsville Penna. had succeeded in interesting the Sunday school under his pastorate in foreign missions, and desiring to have the money appropriated to some definite object he conferred with the Board of Missions (which in 1862 had been removed to Springfield, Ohio) in reference to adopting some method by which this could be accomplished. His attention was drawn to a work which was being done by a few women in the churches of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, who by collecting money yearly were aiding an auxiliary of the Women's Union Missionary Society for Heathen Lands. Mrs. Eliza Sands, now of sacred memory, had introduced this work. She was nobly assisted by Mrs. J. H. Claney, who has also lately passed to her reward, but at that time was Corresponding Secretary of the Pittsburg and Allegheny Branch of the Union Society. These two ladies labored faithfully, gathering the money from year to year, distributing the publications of the Union Society, and keeping alive a spark of missionary zeal among a few women of our churches, some of whom are the present

office-bearers of our Society and who owe to these ladies their first inspiration for foreign mission work.

By request of the Board of Foreign Missions, Mrs. Claney opened a correspondence with the Woman's Union Society; their plans of work were ascertained, and the terms made known by which co-operation would be granted the Board of Foreign Missions in educating girls for Bible readers and other spheres of usefulness. The terms were considered favorable and arrangements being completed, Dr. Collier immediately sent forty dollars to Mr. J. H. Claney, Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions, this being the amount required yearly for a scholarship in the Woman's Union Mission Home in Yokohama, Japan, which amount he forwarded to the Union Society. A girl was set apart for this scholarship, and by request of the Connellsville Sunday school was named Martha Collier, in honor of Dr. Collier's wife; and thus a plan of work was commenced, which finally led to the opening of the church's own mission in Yokohama. Through Rev. C. H. Williams, the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, other Sunday schools and churches became interested and in a few years seventeen girls were being educated in the Union Home in Yokohama. It was while money was being sent in this way for scholar-

ships that the incident occurred to which we have given space on our first pages and which, by the blessing of God, inspired the effort toward organization.

FIRST MEETING.

Referring to the minutes of the first meeting, we find that the Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Claney, has recorded the following in explanation of the call for the meeting:

“On February 14th, 1879, Miss L. M. Guthrie, missionary to Japan under the auspices of the Woman's Union Missionary Society to Heathen Lands, met by request, many of the ladies of the Methodist Churches of this vicinity in the First Church, Pittsburg. Her object was to tell them of the general mission work done in the Union Home in Yokohama, but more particularly she wished to tell them of the good which was being done through the liberality of the Methodist Protestant Church of this and neighboring conferences, and to encourage them in their work. There are several girls in the Home supported by our denomination, two of whom are now doing the duties of Bible readers or native missionaries. It is impossible to calculate the number of redeemed souls that may be brought into the Kingdom through the instrumentality of these girls, and to dear Miss Guthrie our thanks are due for coming so

kindly to us and in so interesting a way showing us what a power for good lay in our hands. Although for several years many churches have done something for foreign missions, much of the money has been collected in the same way as in other yearly collections, and after the report has been taken to conference in some cases the object was, in a certain degree, lost sight of. For months it has been thought by some of the ladies of our churches, that if there were an organization composed of representatives from all of the Methodist Protestant Churches, that by united effort of the women the influence of the denomination would be greatly increased both at home and abroad without interfering or conflicting with any individual church work, or the present organized work of the denomination."

It would be interesting, if after this lapse of time we could reproduce that first meeting held in the small lecture room of the First Church. In memory it may be recalled. All the city churches, and some of those in the suburbs, were represented. Miss L. M. Guthrie was called to the chair and in a few words explained the object of the meeting. The motion to organize was made by Mrs. John Scott. With a shrinking from the responsibility, one after another declined the offices, each pleading, "I pray thee have me excused." Each

felt convinced of the necessity for the organization, but each desired some one else to assume the new duties. Finally the organization was effected. The minutes give us the following names of officers: Mrs. John Scott, President; Mrs. James I. Bennett, Mrs. F. H. Collier, Mrs. William Wragg, Vice-presidents; Mrs. J. H. Claney, Recording Secretary; Mrs. N. B. O'Neil, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. J. D. Anderson, Treasurer; and two or more ladies from each church were elected to the Board of Managers. A committee consisting of six persons was appointed to draft a Constitution and By laws, with a request to report at the next meeting.

A few membership fees were paid at this meeting, and we find on the Treasurer's book the names of the first six contributors in the following order: Mrs. M. A. Miller, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. William Barnhill, Mrs. William Wrighter, Mrs. A. Aughenbaugh, Mrs. W. K. Gillespie.

On the presentation of the Constitution at the next meeting, all the articles were promptly adopted, except one, and that called forth much discussion. The question was, "Shall this Society become auxiliary to the Church Board of Missions, or to the Woman's Union Missionary Society for Heathen Lands?" Miss Guthrie by request explained the method adopted by

the Woman's Union Society, in accepting the co-operation of auxiliary societies. Those who advocated becoming auxiliary to the Woman's Union Society saw an open door to immediate usefulness by supporting Miss Guthrie, who would return in a few months to her former field of labor, under the Union Society. Those who were opposed to this desired to assist our Church Board of Foreign Missions and enable it to establish our own denominational work; but the fear that this might be in the far future finally decided the vote in favor of the Union Society, and the article under discussion was so amended as to give the Society an independent relation to the Board of Foreign Missions in order that it might control its own funds, but at the same time, pledging it to work in harmony and full sympathy with the Board.

But when the Society sought to carry out the proposed plan with the Union Society, its help was declined, as it was known to them that it was the intention of the church to establish denominational work as soon as it was able, and that the help now afforded would be of short duration. Meanwhile, Miss Guthrie had expressed a willingness to go out as a missionary for the young Society, and at the meeting held November 20th, it was first considered; but with only nine auxiliaries

upon which to depend, and with less than \$300 in the treasury the undertaking seemed too great.

An appeal to the women of the church had been prepared by a committee, consisting of Mrs. J. W. Rutledge, Mrs. John Scott and Mrs. N. B. O'Neil. This had been published with the Constitution and eight hundred copies had been sent to the pastors for distribution in the churches, with the request that they assist in the organizing of auxiliaries, that being thought the best way to enlist our sisters in the new movement; but during the year only one response outside of the Pittsburg Conference had been received, and that came from the ladies of the Franklin Methodist Protestant Church, Michigan Conference. Under these circumstances, the prospects for sending out a missionary were not very flattering, but the hope that it might be accomplished at no distant day was fondly cherished.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

The question of sending out a missionary was still under advisement, when the first anniversary of the Society came around. The exercises were held in the lecture room of the First Church, Pittsburg, and were opened by a love-feast conducted by Mrs. John Scott. Rev. C. H. Williams, corresponding secretary of the Board of Missions being in the city, was invited to at-

tend the meeting. In conversation with Mrs. Scott during the hour of lunch, he was apprised of the financial condition of the Society, and its present dilemma. Here was an experienced missionary offering her services, but a weak treasury and the weaker faith of the members marked the scheme as too visionary. Mrs. Scott appealed to Mr. Williams, saying, "Here is an opportunity for your Board, and the way is now open for you to establish your work immediately. Is your Board ready to accept this lady and send her out?" "We are not able to do so alone," was the reply, "but if your Society will join with us we shall be able."

After further consultation with the officers and friends present, the following resolution was offered by Mrs. T. H. Colhouer: "Resolved, That the Executive Committee of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society pledge the payment of the salary of Miss L. M. Guthrie if the Board of Foreign Missions will accept her as a missionary to Japan." The resolution was considered favorably, Rev. C. H. Williams gave his approval, and the Society took immediate steps toward carrying it out. Mrs. J. J. Murray generously contributed fifty dollars. at this time to aid in sending out Miss Guthrie, and by this gift was made the first honorary manager of the organization.

In the social exercises of the afternoon meeting Mrs. Scott gave the greeting of the Society to all present, and congratulated the officers on the degree of success attained ; also in having been favored with the presence of Miss Guthrie at many of our meetings during the year, and of now being able to look forward to a day not far distant when she would represent our beloved church in a foreign land. Rev. C. H. Williams, Dr. J. J. Murray, Dr. John Scott, Rev. D. Jones and many others who had been deeply interested in the Society from its very inception, were present and spoke words of encouragement which inspired all with an earnest desire to help forward the good work by carrying out the proposed plans.

Anniversary exercises were held in the evening which were a fitting close to this day's labors. To Mrs. J. J. Murray and others we were indebted for the well arranged programme, for the sweet service of song, for the blooming plants, for the presence of the Rev. J. H. Kellogg, of the Presbyterian church, whose remarks, rich with the actual experiences of foreign mission life, gave an impetus to the movement never forgotten, and an assurance to the timid ones, that the steps taken this day were of the Master's own directing. And when before the close of the meeting, Miss Guthrie, with

countenance radiant with the light of love and consecration, spoke of her future work and her desire to labor for Christ, all felt that to them a new era of usefulness had dawned, and catching the inspiration of the hour, other lives were pledged to work and toil for the Master in any sphere to which he might call them.

We did not know what the future had in store for us, or that only a few months would elapse before we would be called together again in that same place to take a farewell look at the calm, sweet face of our first missionary cold in death. But we anticipate. God in wisdom veils the future from our eyes, but overrules all his providences to his own honor and glory.

While waiting to consummate the final arrangements with the Board, Miss Guthrie visited a number of Sunday schools and churches of the Pittsburg and other conferences, and, with Mrs. O'Neil organized two Branches, the Muskingum on March 11th, 1880, and the Ohio on March 29th.

At this meeting the only conference represented besides the Pittsburg, was the Michigan Conference—Franklin Auxiliary having sent a letter of greeting and offer of co-operation. Mrs. J. A. Thrapp, of the Muskingum Conference, was present by invitation, and returned carrying the spirit of organization with her.

All the officers elected at the organization were re-elected at this meeting, except Mrs. J. H. Claney, who, by her request, was relieved of the office of recording secretary, and Mrs. J. J. Murray was elected to fill the place. Of the forty-three managers elected at the beginning, a number failed to identify themselves with the Society and their places were filled by active workers. The vice-presidents were not re-elected, as the change in the Constitution provided for that office by the presidents of branches *ex officio*.

CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION.

During the first year's effort it had become evident that the Constitution which had been framed to meet the requirements, so far as then conceived, was inadequate for the necessities of a Society, which it was desired should embrace the whole denomination; hence, at the first annual meeting it was revised and so framed as to systematize the plans and bring the whole church into united effort.

The conferences were districted into Branches, each Branch to embrace all the Auxiliary Societies within its respective conference—the aim being to form an auxiliary in every church. The administration of the affairs of the Society was vested in a general executive board, representing all the branches and meeting annually,—

the plan of organization being in harmony with the representative polity of the church. In addition there was an executive committee of five persons, composed of the President of the Pittsburg Branch, the Corresponding Secretary of the Society, the Treasurer and two members elected by the Society, who were to meet monthly, with power to act for the Society, subject to its revision, and was located at Pittsburg, Pa. This committee was called the Executive Committee of the Board. The General Executive Board, in which is vested all the authority for the Society's affairs, and which meets annually has, throughout this sketch, been called the *Society*, instead of the *Board* in contra-distinction to the Board of Foreign Missions.

FAREWELL MEETING.

On the eve of Miss Guthrie's departure for Japan, a meeting was held by the Pittsburg Branch, and many friends from our own and other churches gathered in to speak kind parting words to her who was going forth alone on her long and toilsome journey. From the Woman's Missionary Column in the *Methodist Recorder* we take the following account of the meeting:

Very interesting farewell services were held by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in the First Methodist Protestant Church, Allegheny, on Thursday, April 22, on the eve of Miss Guthrie's departure for Japan, and

the occasion will long be remembered with pleasure by those who were permitted to be present.

The altar was tastefully decorated with flowers by Mrs. J. D. Anderson of Bellevue, while back of the pulpit was draped a very beautiful flag, a gift from the ladies of the Muskingum Branch for the Home in Japan. At Miss Guthrie's request no sad farewells were said. The meeting was informal and social, the ladies having provided a dainty collation, which served admirably to break through all formality. Rev. S. F. Crowther, the pastor, presided and after the singing of "What hast thou done for me," and prayer by Rev. T. H. Colhouer, Miss Guthrie made a most touching address. She expressed a hope that she would not long labor alone in Japan, but that by united efforts we would soon be able to send her a helper; and while we listened to her cheerful, hopeful words, and heard her earnest expressions of faith and trust in the promises of our Heavenly Father, we checked the rising tear and caught her sweet spirit of hope and trust, and silently our prayer ascended to the ever gracious Father for his choicest blessings to rest on her, our beloved first missionary. Dr. Scott followed with some earnest remarks, urging the ladies to renewed zeal and effort in the new work. The right motive, he said, must govern our actions. A love for souls must constrain us. Ambition to compete with other churches must not influence our motives, but a sincere desire to offer to the heathen world salvation as it is in Jesus, this alone should be the controlling motive of every heart engaged in the work.

Want of space forbids our giving the kind cheering words of Dr. Murray, Revs. Phipps, Berrien and others; Mrs. Colhouer in the name of the Society made some earnest and practical remarks, assuring Miss Guthrie of

loving sympathy and prayerful interest in her and our new work in far away Japan.

The next day at noon Miss Guthrie was accompanied to the train by Dr. and Mrs. Scott, Rev. J. C. Berrien, Mr. J. H. Claney and many other friends, and soon proceeded on her way toward the "Land of the Rising Sun."

SAD NEWS.

Miss Guthrie arrived in San Francisco in her usual health, intending to spend a short time with friends, but while waiting for the vessel to bear her through the "Golden Gate" of the Pacific, the summons came from the Spirit Land, and the pale boatman bore her across the waters and through the golden gates of the Celestial City.

On May 15th, the sad news of her death was flashed across the wires to Pittsburg, and fell like a pall on the church. Her remains were embalmed in San Francisco, and brought to Pittsburg for burial on June 7th. The funeral services were held in the First Church, where a very large number of friends of all denominations, came to pay the last tribute of respect to her memory. From the *Methodist Recorder* the following account of the funeral services is condensed:

Revs. T. H. Colhouer, J. C. Berrien and Messrs. Charles A. Scott, Charles A. Herbert, William K. Gill-espie, John H. Claney acted as pall-bearers. As the remains were borne up the aisle the choir rendered the

anthem, "And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears." A large cross of pure white flowers was placed on the altar and other floral offerings were placed on the casket. Rev. S. F. Crowther read part of the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians and part of the seventh of Revelations. Rev. William Wragg announced the hymn beginning, "Farewell, dear friend," after which Rev. W. H. Phipps led in prayer.

Dr. Scott and Dr. Murray spoke of the beautiful character of the deceased, and of the hold she had gained upon the hearts of all those who had been associated with her. Dr. Murray held in his hand a volume of daily Scriptural readings which had been used by Miss Guthrie amid her toils in foreign lands, and which on leaving her brother at Sparta, Illinois, to come to Pittsburgh, she gave to him as a small token of remembrance. In it was the following entry, "February, 4, 1880. Left Sparta for Pittsburg." The passage for the day reads, "The Lord has said unto you, ye shall henceforth return no more that way." On the day of her death, May 15, 1880, is this entry made by her brother, "Passed from death to life at San Francisco, Cal." The passage for the day is "God shall wipe away all tears . . . there shall be no more death, neither sorrow . . . for the former things are passed away." The chorister, without knowing this fact, selected for the opening anthem "And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears." The coincident was beautiful and touching. The remains were remarkably well preserved, and Miss Guthrie's friends were permitted to look once more on the face of their dear departed friend. The large audience quietly and solemnly passed in front of the altar, looked upon the calm, sweet face of the silent sleeper, and then retired from the church.

In a beautiful spot in the Allegheny Cemetery, her body was laid to rest with her kindred, till the dead shall be called from their graves. In very many hearts memory holds in precious remembrance the name and gentle character of our beloved first missionary, and often her name is repeated by those who owe to her their first impulses for foreign mission work.

MISS BRITTAN IS SENT OUT.

Although "God buries His workmen He still carries on His work." Miss Guthrie before leaving Pittsburg, had expressed a wish that Miss Brittan, a former missionary of the Union Society, of long experience in the work and who was then home for a rest, might join her in her labors in Japan. just as soon as the Society felt able to send her. It was therefore to Miss Brittan the Society turned in this dark hour, and promptly her answer came, "Here am I, send me." By request she came to Pittsburg where the General Conference was in session. The officers of the Board of Missions being in attendance, arrangements were soon completed and Miss Brittan was appointed to succeed our lamented Miss Guthrie.

In a few weeks she was prepared to leave her home in New York, and passing through Pittsburg, she was prevailed upon to remain a few days at the Arlington

Camp Ground, where a very impressive missionary and farewell meeting was held on the Sabbath, more than two thousand persons being present.

Miss Brittan arrived in Japan in September, and immediately set about renting a building and gathering children together for a school. In this she was very successful, and in a few weeks was obliged to rent a larger building. As an assistant in the school room was indispensable, she wrote to the Woman's Board—"The Lord sent out His disciples two and two, and I truly see the wisdom of that plan, but the church has sent me out alone. How soon can you send me help?" But before we were ready to send an assistant, in God's providence one was brought to her, and in this was verified the promise, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days," for this assistant who became so valuable to Miss Brittan, as a teacher and interpreter, was none other than Gei Neddzu, (Martha Collier) the first fruits of the first seed sowing by our church in a foreign land.

A few months after this time Miss Anna McCully, a friend of Miss Brittan's, went out at her own expense and assisted in the school for about two years, the Society paying her salary. All the other expenses of the mission school, except missionaries' salaries, and

the support of a few scholarships, were borne by the Board of Foreign Missions.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

At the second annual meeting of the Society, which was again held in Pittsburg, seven Branch societies were reported, viz., Pittsburg, Michigan, Muskingum, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Genesee. The visiting delegates were Mrs. S. K. Spahr of the Ohio Branch, Mrs. J. A. Thrapp and Mrs. E. N. McFarland of the Muskingum Branch. The other Branches were represented by letter. From the Maryland and some other conferences contributions of money were sent. St. John's Church, Baltimore, sent a letter of greeting through its pastor, Rev. T. H. Lewis, and promised two hundred dollars annually. These contributions gave proof of the favor with which the new organization was received and created hopes which were realized the next year when the Maryland Branch was organized and came nobly to the front with a number of Auxiliaries and the promise of more.

The presence at this meeting of sisters from other conferences, coming as they did with words of cheer and a spirit of co-operation, gave an impetus to the work, and proved a foretaste of the good which has since resulted from the gathering together of the sisters

from the different parts of our Methodism. The meeting was in session two days.

During this year, the efforts of the Society had been directed chiefly to the increasing of missionary interest among the churches. Public meetings had been held, one thousand annual reports published, leaflets distributed, a column in the *Methodist Recorder*, by the kindness of the editor, Dr. John Scott, was assigned to woman's work, and one of the members appointed to take charge of it; and various other means were made use of to bring the subject of missions before the people. Mrs. Scott was appointed to take charge of the "Brick" fund, which had been started at the suggestion of Miss Brittan for a Woman's Home in Japan, the plan being to collect ten cents a brick. A committee was appointed to procure a charter for the Society, which purpose was carried out the following year, and the Society was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania. The receipts gradually increased, and from \$318.16 the first year, amounted to \$1380.16 the second year.

Mrs. N. B. O'Neil, the corresponding secretary, owing to removal from the city, was obliged to sever her connection with the Society and Mrs. M. A. Miller was elected to that office.

At the General Conference in 1880 which was held in Pittsburg, the report of the Society was presented by Mrs. J. H. Claney; also a petition requesting the official recognition of that body, which was granted, the following resolution being adopted; "We recognize The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church, located in Pittsburg, Pa., as one of the permanent agencies of the church, and recommend that branch societies of the same be organized in all our conferences, and auxiliaries in all our stations, circuits and missions wherever practicable; provided that said Society in their methods for raising funds shall in no way interfere with the collections to be taken in the churches and Sabbath schools for the Board of Missions."

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

On February 15th, and 16th, 1882, the third annual meeting convened at Cambridge, Ohio, by invitation of the Muskingum Branch. The attendance of members was small owing to sickness and the unpleasant weather. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. F. A. Brown of the Muskingum Branch occupied the chair.

Owing to the generally inclement weather prevailing in the month of February, it was decided to change the

time for holding the annual meeting to the first week in May. One new Branch, the Maryland, was reported with eight Auxiliaries. It was represented by letter, its corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. R. O'Brien writing; "The ladies appointed at the Maryland Conference to organize a Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, met in St. John's Church, Tuesday, April 5th, 1881, organized and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. J. T. Murray, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. R. O'Brien, Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. Tyler; Auditor, Mrs. C. A. Benjamin. We entered the work timidly, but with prayerful hearts, taking for our guide the precious promise, 'God is able to make grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work.'"

A leaflet containing a statement of the organization of the Society, its purposes, and an appeal to all of the pastors of the Maryland Conference was published by the Branch, and a very auspicious beginning was made.

The business at this meeting occupied two days. The work of the Society was reviewed, and the same plans continued, namely, the Society assisting the Board of Foreign Missions in sustaining the school at Yokohama by paying the salaries of Miss Brittan and Miss McCully and supporting scholarship.

The receipts for the year for the general fund were \$1838.48, for the building fund \$1303.53. Mrs. F. A. Brown was elected president, and has continued to fill that office to the present time (1896.)

This, the third year of the Society had been one of great trial and perplexity to the office bearers. Considerable friction had arisen between the Board of Foreign Missions and the Society before the plans had become fully adjusted to each other. The independent relation given the Society by the General Conference of 1880 was not well received by some of the brethren. Furthermore, the Society had started out with the purpose of working among women and children; this was also the work in which the Board of Missions was engaged, and it was the wish of the Board that the Society be simply an auxiliary to it, paying all its moneys into that treasury and having no further responsibility as to its funds or administration. An offer from the Board, proposing a union on this basis, had been presented to the Executive Committee of the Society, but after most careful consideration was declined.

Afterward when the Board of Missions, not having enough money to purchase the property selected by Miss Brittan, desired the Society to make over to it the "Brick" fund, decided opposition was expressed; and

the Society felt that if its own distinctive work among women and children were to be maintained, it must adhere to its original purpose, and for that reason it refused to yield to the offers for union, or to relinquish the independent position given it by the General Conference. Its purpose was to have its own building, so that when the Board of Missions would commence evangelistic work, by sending out ordained ministers, the Society could then take up all the work which was being done among women and children and carry on its work on its own specified lines. The difficulties which the Society experienced at this time in its purpose to control its own funds were somewhat similar to those of a sister denomination while attempting the same thing. "Rivals! Rivals!" cried the Parent Board; "we cannot allow our fields thus intruded upon; if they want to work let them *gather for our garner*; no need of two barns for what can be put into one." The questions in dispute which, up to this time, had been confined principally to a correspondence between the Board and the Society, were finally made public through an article by the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Missions which appeared in the official organs of the church—the Board thinking it best thus to set the facts before the people in the light in which it viewed them. The

Society and its friends were seized with the same desire and the subject was freely discussed pro and con. Many good brethren, not clearly understanding the attitude of the Society, seemed to fear that underneath this independent movement there might be lurking something of a "Woman's Rights" spirit, and that by giving aid to the Society they might be encouraging a mild form of that theory. Therefore to adjust these difficulties it was proposed to appoint a committee of five ladies to confer with a committee from the Board of Missions.

Accordingly Mrs. F. A. Brown, Mrs. G. B. Dotson, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. A. R. O'Brien and Mrs. M. A. Miller were appointed, and as the Annual Council was to hold its next meeting in New Brighton, Pa., in the following July, it was decided to present the subject to that body for adjudication.

This was done, and the matter was satisfactorially disposed of for the time being, the Council advising separate plans of work for the Board and the Society until the next meeting of the General Conference, when, it was presumed, the work of each would be more clearly defined.

THE MEETING IN BALTIMORE.

The fourth annual meeting convened in Starr Church, Baltimore, May 2d, 1883.

The Ohio, Muskingum, Maryland, Michigan and Pittsburg Branches were represented by delegates, and the Illinois, Iowa, Genesee and Missouri by letter. No new Branches had been formed during the year. The perplexities through which the Society had passed had dampened the enthusiasm of the members, and the friction between the two boards had materially lessened the receipts to the "Brick" fund; also there were other depressing influences. The places of some of our earliest members were vacant. Mrs. Charles A. Herbert, who had been identified with the Society from the beginning, and had served as the recording secretary, had been called suddenly from labor to reward. Mrs. Burns, vice president of the Muskingum Branch, who had greeted the Society at her home the previous year, had also passed away. Our treasurer, Mrs. Anderson, was prevented being present by the death of a relative, and other sisters were absent because of personal or family affliction. But the glad welcome given by the Baltimore sisters, the cordial greeting from city pastors, their words of commendation and good wishes for the Society's success, all inspired the members with fresh courage. The venerable Dr. Webster, Dr. L. W. Bates and many other ministers gave their presence to the meeting and their congratulations to the Society.

Also Dr. E. J. Drinkhouse, editor of the *Methodist Protestant*, was present and gave the meeting favorable notice in that paper. The helpful suggestions of Dr. J. J. Murray, who, at the time of the organization of the Society, was pastor of the First Church, Pittsburg, and was well acquainted with all the struggles and trials of the Society, were kindly received and served to remove some of the difficulties. There were greetings also from sister societies. Mrs. Julianna Hayes, president of the Society of the M. E. Church, South, and Miss Isabel Hart, of the Baltimore Branch of the M. E. Church, encouraged by their suggestions as to the difficulties through which our young Society was passing—difficulties which they had surmounted and which had made them all the stronger in their convictions as to the conduct of woman's societies. During this year mite boxes had been introduced, missionary leaflets, which had been purchased from other societies, had been distributed; also 1,000 copies of our annual report. Organizers had been appointed in some of the Branches and through their efforts the number of Auxiliaries had been increased.

The offer of part of the *Methodist Protestant Missionary*, published at Springfield, Ohio, was made by the editor, Rev. C. H. Williams, and was accepted, and

Mrs. G. B. Dotson appointed to take charge, but she afterwards declined and the paper was not used. The columns of the *Methodist Recorder* were still used by the Society, and the same courtesy was offered by Dr. Drinkhouse, editor of the *Methodist Protestant*.

The reports that came from Japan were highly encouraging. Miss Brittan's school had increased from its small beginning of three children, in a Japanese house, to fifty pupils, comfortably situated in a good building which had been purchased by her for the Board of Missions. As no permanent engagement had been made with Miss McCully, Miss Brittan suggested the advisability of sending a lady out to learn the language and assist in the school.

An application was made at this meeting by a medical lady of Baltimore to go as a missionary, but after correspondence with Miss Brittan, and finding her greatest need was an assistant in the school room, the application was not further considered.

Mrs. A. E. Sanford, preceptress at Adrian College, Michigan, acted as secretary of this meeting. She suggested Miss Margaret Brown, a student of the college, as a suitable person for our work; also suggested the names of others who, she thought, might be available, but advised directing the attention of the young ladies

of our church to this feature of church work, so that time could be given to special preparation for that calling.

The tardiness of our young women to respond to the needs of our foreign work seemed to suggest the necessity for a greater interest in missions being inculcated in our Sunday schools and colleges, and that individual responsibility be pressed home on many who, hitherto, had not looked beyond their local church to find service for the Master. The organizing of mission bands was emphasized and vigorous efforts were to be made to increase the number.

On Thursday evening the large audience room of the church was filled with an attentive congregation to enjoy a Bible reading conducted by Mrs. G. B. Dotson, of the Ohio Branch, giving the Bible view of missionary work; after which a "love-feast" was held, which will ever be remembered by those who participated as a season of spiritual power.

The public anniversary of the Society was held on Friday evening and interesting addresses were delivered by Mrs. A. E. Sanford, Dr. D. L. Greenfield of Maryland Conference, and Mrs. F. A. Brown, president of the Society.

The meeting was in session three days. The many

excellent papers, eloquent addresses, instructive discussions, the delightful visit made to Druid Hill Park, all united to make this meeting most pleasant and profitable, and cemented more strongly the bonds of Christian fellowship among the churches represented.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

On May 7th, 1884, the Society convened at Springfield, Ohio. At this place the Board of Missions is located, and being in session at the time, the members were invited to attend the Society's meetings. A few availed themselves of the invitation, and in an interchange of opinions relative to the work of both Boards a better understanding was reached.

A call for two missionaries had been answered during the year by three applications. One was by letter from Rev. S. K. Spahr, a member of the Board of Missions, desiring to know if the Society would accept and send out a young lady selected by their Board. The name being withheld, Mr. Spahr was advised that if the lady in question would present her application to the Executive Committee it would be considered.

The application was not presented, but at this meeting was made in person by Miss H. E. Crittenden, of Adrian, Mich., who was present as a representative from the Michigan Branch. Being highly recommended by

her pastor, Mr. Spahr, the usual formalities for applicants were set aside and Miss Crittenden was duly accepted.

Miss Margaret Brown had been spoken of at a former meeting, and with a view to employing her, a correspondence had been opened. Testimonials had been received, the committee were favorably impressed, and upon their recommendation she, also, was accepted.

The application of Miss L. E. Dunn, of Pittsburg, was also considered. She had been looked upon by many of the Pittsburg workers as a suitable person for the foreign work; but the committee, while appreciating her excellent qualities, feared she was not sufficiently robust for the climate of Japan, and they felt compelled to decide unfavorably on her application.

A few years afterward Miss Dunn was accepted by the International Missionary Alliance and was sent to Jerusalem, where she is at this writing (1896), and has proved herself a very efficient missionary.

The two missionaries-elect, Miss Brown and Miss Crittenden, were instructed to make preparations for going to Japan as early in September as possible. Before leaving, Miss Brown, accompanied by Mrs. F. A. Brown, visited the West Virginia Conference during its session at Newburg, August 31, 1884. A Branch was

organized with three Auxiliaries and fifty-three members.

At this meeting rules were adopted signifying what the requirements for missionary candidates should be; also a pledge and contract for missionaries, the term of service to be for five years.

No new Branches were reported. New Jersey, although not regularly organized, sent its second contribution of money and promised co-operation in the future.

A committee of three ladies, consisting of Mrs. M. A. Miller, Mrs. F. A. Brown and Mrs. A. R. O'Brien was appointed to represent the Society in the next General Conference which was to meet in Baltimore in the latter part of the following May.

REPORT AND PETITION PRESENTED TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The committee presented the following report to the General Conference:

RESPECTED FATHERS AND BRETHREN:

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society which received the recognition of this body four years ago, making it one of the Boards of the church, now comes before you to present its first quadrennial report. It has steadily adhered to its purpose as set forth in its Constitution, which is to disseminate knowledge and Christianity among heathen women and children through its missionaries and teachers.

Its Constitution is in harmony with our church principles, and provides for the representation of every Auxiliary in its Conference Branch, and every Branch in the General Executive Board. It pledges itself to work in harmony with the Board of Missions of the church and to raise its moneys in such ways as will not interfere with the collections of the Board. Under this Constitution it was recognized by the General Conference of 1880 as one of the permanent agencies of the church having full power to labor wherever it chose, and to do all the good it could. It has organized in nine conferences, having about one hundred Auxiliary Societies and a number of Mission Bands. It has raised during the five years of its existence \$10,517.00, of which \$2,400 is a fund especially designed for building purposes. It has sent boxes of clothing for the children and furnishings for the Home in Japan, amounting to about \$500, making the full amount of the receipts about \$11,000.00.

It has, with the consent and approval of the Board of Missions, undertaken to sustain the mission school in Yokohama, by paying the salary of Miss Brittan and her assistant, and in supporting several scholarships, all of which expenses amount to about \$1,500 annually. By the report of the Treasurer, as given at the last annual

meeting at Springfield, Ohio, May 7th, 8th and 9th, after paying the salaries of the missionaries, there was a balance in the treasury of \$2,083.31.

At Miss Brittan's urgent request for reinforcements, the Society has been endeavoring to secure the services of some of our own members, but it met with no success until at the last meeting of the Executive Board, when application was made by two ladies, one a graduate of Adrian College, the other a student. The testimonials being highly satisfactory the ladies were accepted and will prepare to leave for Japan early in September. The salary to be paid these ladies is \$500 each, annually, with a personal outfit of \$150.00—their term of contract being for five years.

No disposition has been made of the building or "Brick" fund, but as it has been found impracticable to educate boys and girls together in Japan, the necessity for a building exclusively for Woman's Work is so apparent that this fund will doubtless be held for that purpose.

The Society is regularly incorporated under the title of "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church," and has the power of selling, leasing and conveying any and all property which it may at any time acquire. It is the wish of the

Society to supplement the evangelistic work of the Board of Missions by the opening of mission schools, day schools and orphanages, and while co-operating with the Board in this way, it desires to be co-ordinate with the Board, and to be amenable to the same power. For this purpose its Constitution, which heretofore gave it an independent relation, has been changed to read:

“This Society shall act in harmony with and under the advisory supervision of the Board of Missions, reserving the right of controlling its own funds, and shall be amenable to the General Conference.”

The Society desires to carry on its specific work for women and girls; and feeling the great necessity of enlisting every woman to help the cause, its purpose is to endeavor to establish a Branch Society in every conference. Great good has already resulted to the church in a quickening of its pulses in every department where woman's foreign mission work has been inaugurated, and the Society feels that the influence of this work, if rightly directed, may be a mighty lever in lifting our churches to a higher and broader plane of usefulness. As one has said: “Not only in heathen lands has the influence of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society borne fruit, but the church in America is richer to-day in broad, intelligent women, capable and ready to carry forward

the various benevolences, which in increasing numbers are every year committed to their charge." There has been developed an administrative ability, an acquaintance and sympathy with the requirements of the Kingdom of Christ, an understanding and grasp of all moral and religious interests of great importance to the church.

That our beloved church may reap the fruits of this labor for Christ, the Society desires to plan more largely for the future than it has yet done. It wants to be a help and not a hindrance in its plans of work, and believing that the responsibility of sustaining its own specific work will be an incentive to greater exertion on the part of the whole church, we are fondly hoping that the petitions which come from the Society to this General Conference may meet with its most hearty approval, and that the future of our foreign interests may be such as will prove that wisdom has dictated the plans and methods of work proposed.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Board.

MARY A. MILLER,
Corresponding Secretary.

PETITIONS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

We, the undersigned representatives, duly elected by the Executive Board of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, at its annual meeting held in Spring-

field, Ohio, May 7th, 8th and 9th, 1884, do, in behalf of the Board, respectfully petition the General Conference:

First—For the recognition of the Society under its revised Constitution as one of the Boards of the church.

Second—The Society desires to act in harmony with the Board of Missions and under its advisory supervision, reserving the right of controlling its own funds, and to be made amenable to the General Conference.

Third—We ask for such a division of the foreign work as will give to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society the support and supervision of all work for women and girls within the missions of the Methodist Protestant Church and that the present school, under the care of Miss Brittan, be transferred at the expiration of Miss Brittan's contract with the Board of Missions.

Fourth—While desiring and accepting the advisory supervision of the Board of Missions in all the general plans of work, such as starting new schools, employing and dismissing head teachers, arranging terms of tuition, course of study, board, etc., the Society desires the right of giving full liberty to its lady missionaries in the work assigned them, so that they may carry out the internal arrangements of their departments in their own way and

in the manner they may deem best adapted to secure success.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board.

MRS. MARY A. MILLER,

MRS. A. R. O'BRIEN,

MRS. F. A. BROWN.

The Committee on Foreign Missions made the following report, which was adopted by the General Conference:

"We have considered the report and memorial read before this General Convention by Mrs. Mary A. Miller, Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church, and hail with gratitude to God our sisters in Christ who are doing such a grand work of Christian civilization in Japan,

We note with great pleasure their strict adherence to the purpose set forth in the Constitution of their Board, viz., the dissemination of knowledge and Christianity among heathen women and children, and their pledge to work in harmony with the Board of Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church. We rejoice in their success and achievements, and pray God to bless and strengthen them more and more.

The report throughout breathes a Christian spirit,

and the work of the Board seems to have been transacted in a business-like manner, highly to be commended.

Your committee have considered the work of missions, as now conducted by our church in foreign lands. We recommend:

First—That no change be made in the work as now conducted in Japan until the expiration of the contract of the Board with Miss Brittan, unless the Board and the Society shall make some arrangement mutually satisfactory.

Second—That the Board direct Miss Brittan to control all matters pertaining to the internal management of the school, and Rev. F. C. Klein to continue his evangelistic work, and teaching the young men, and direct his labors to establishing a Mission Methodist Protestant Church.

Third—That when the contract with Miss Brittan shall expire the Board direct all their labors to evangelization and teaching among men and boys, leaving the work among women and girls to the special care of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as set forth in the article adopted by the General Conference for the government of the Society.

ONE PETITION NOT GRANTED.

* The above report was accompanied by a paper consisting of seven articles which was named "Rules for Governing the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church," but which was in reality a new Constitution. The time set for hearing the report and these rules was eleven o'clock on Friday morning. About twenty minutes before that time the committee of three ladies was called before the Committee on Missions and the seven rules were submitted for their consideration. The paper was read carefully, but its full tenor was scarcely comprehended. It was found, as some one explained to the ladies that, "in order to lift into official life that which was independent of all law and to bring to a focus all the powers of both Boards from which might radiate lines having some degree of unity," the liberal Constitution under which the Society had been working was to be taken from it, and it was to be placed under the Board of Missions, simply being an auxiliary of that Board. All power was to be taken from it. Even the appointment of its missionaries, their remuneration, the designation of their fields of labor, all appropriations, and all official acts of the Society were to be presented to the Board of Foreign Missions before they could be legally carried out.

The ladies were hardly prepared for so radical a change as this paper contemplated. True, they had heard rumors that certain brethren were displeased with the large amount of liberty given the young Society by a former General Conference, and that some were disposed to deprive it of this liberty, and that it was the purpose to consolidate its treasury with that of the Board of Missions; but the idea of consenting, voluntarily, to surrender the rights of the Constitution, under which they had been working successfully, was entirely foreign to their thoughts. When reminded by the Committee that it lacked but a few minutes till the "hour of the day" would be upon them, the ladies thought it best to retire and leave their cause with its friends in the Conference, it being understood that a minority report which had been submitted to the ladies was more in unison with their views.

By some misunderstanding between the chairman of the Committee on Missions and the Committee of Women the chairman, in submitting his paper to the Conference, prefaced it with the remark that the paper which he was about to read had been presented to the ladies who represented the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and he was glad to be able to state that their approval had been given.

It is possible that the chairman considered the Committee's assent to a change in one of the rules was their approval of the whole paper; however that may be, his statement that the three ladies were satisfied debarred all discussion; and the brethren supposing they were granting terms in compliance with the wishes of the ladies voted at once for the entire paper; and thus the "Independent Sovereignty," which for about four years had rested like a mighty incubus on the minds of certain conservative brethren, came to an untimely end. *X*

The new rules were modeled after the Constitution which the Bishops of the M. E. Church had framed for their Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and which, at one time was considered by the writer of this sketch, at least, as all that was necessary for our Society; but there came a time when the question arose, Why abandon our Constitution, modeled after the polity of our own church of *mutual rights* and accept that of a church entirely opposed to ours in its form of government, and which makes its episcopal power felt throughout every part of its economy? This can be answered by those who are wiser than the writer.

When the new relation became known to the Society the action was greatly deplored. The Committee were charged with being recreant to their trust; they narrowly

escaped resolutions of censure from the various Branches, and manifestations of displeasure were rife; but the acceptance of the paper by the Conference was as truly a surprise and disappointment to the Committee as it could be to any member of the Society, and with great anxiety they awaited the coming annual meeting, not knowing what judgment they would receive; but, fortunately, before that time came around a better spirit prevailed, and, after explanations, the report was accepted by the Society and the Committee honorably discharged.

By the new rules provision was made for the election at each quadrennial session of the General Conference of an Executive Committee, consisting of five women, through which the Society was made amenable to the Board of Foreign Missions. This committee was located at Pittsburg, Pa., and had power to fill any vacancies occurring in the interim of the General Conference.

THE WORK ABROAD.

Turning again to the foreign field, we find that many changes had taken place. Miss McCully, after assisting Miss Brittan for about two years, returned to America. Gei Nedzu, who had greatly endeared herself to Miss Brittan by her amiable Christian character, was

stricken with cholera and in a few hours had passed away. Being Miss Brittan's interpreter, as well as assistant teacher, the loss was severely felt. With the help of the pupils the school was continued, when, fortunately, the services of Miss Cooper, a Eurasian girl, educated in the Union Home, were obtained.

The Board of Foreign Missions had, in the fall of 1883, sent out an ordained minister, Rev. F. C. Klein, a member of the Maryland Conference. He took as his bride and helpmeet Miss Lizzie Patton, a member of the First Church, Pittsburg. They found a home in the large building which Miss Brittan had purchased by instruction from the Board of Missions, and which was used as a Home for the missionaries and for the school.

Miss Brown and Miss Crittenden arrived in Yokohama October 29th, 1884, and were duly installed as assistants in the school. Early in 1885 Miss Brittan resigned her position under the Board of Missions and accepted another in Tokyo. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society held in February, 1885, Miss Brown was appointed to take her place as Foreign Treasurer and Superintendent of the Home, and Miss Crittenden, who was placed in charge of the school by Miss Brittan, was continued as its principal. Early in April of the same year the Corresponding Sec-

retary of the Society was instructed to write Miss Brittan to ascertain if her services could be obtained for the Girls' School whenever it would come under the care of the Society. Her answer was in the affirmative. She also suggested a work for the Society among the Eurasians in Japan, a work which was very much needed but which no society had taken up. Of these children Miss Brittan wrote: "The helpless condition of these children has weighed on my heart for years and I have an intense longing to open a home for them—a work which every missionary here feels the need of but which no board will take up. While the different societies are everywhere active and energetic in trying to do good to the natives of these lands, and seeking to bring them to Jesus, these, the children of so called Christian parents, are almost wholly neglected and are brought up in a condition generally far worse than the poor heathen around them; for the heathen are taught some form of religion, while these poor children are taught neither religion nor morality, and are looked down upon by all, both natives and foreigners, as making the worst class of citizens in all countries of the East."

As the school promised to be largely self-supporting, and as there were sufficient funds in the treasury above what were being required for the Girls' School, which

was still under the Board of Missions, the Executive Committee concluded to proceed with this work if, after presentation to the Society at its next meeting, its approval would be given.

Approval was duly given by both the Society and the Board and Miss Brittan was informed of the action. She immediately opened the work in Yokohama, but the severe opposition raised by Mr. Klein, missionary of the Board, to the Society's taking up work among this low class of children—a work which he said would reflect no credit upon the Society—caused Miss Brittan to write that for the present it would be better for the Society to relinquish the enterprise and she would conduct it as an independent school. This was done and a request was then made to the Board of Foreign Missions that the Girls' School be at once transferred to the Society. The request was cheerfully complied with, and as the Society had not yet purchased a building, permission was kindly given for the school to remain in the Japan Home as long as it was not required by Mr. Klein for a Young Men's School, the Society bearing its proportionate share of the expenses from August 1st, 1885.

ANNUAL MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS.

The sixth annual meeting convened at Adrian, Mich., in May, 1885. Three new Branches, namely, Indiana,

West Virginia, Pennsylvania and one new Auxiliary from the Missouri Conference reported—the one organized in 1882 having disbanded.

The New Jersey Conference had for two years contributed money, but was not yet prepared to organize. The reports from the missionaries, as well as the reports from the Branches, were inspiring. Desiring to encourage a greater degree of harmony and co-operation with the Board of Missions its Corresponding Secretary, Rev. F. T. Tagg, had been invited to meet with the Society, but previous plans prevented his being present. A kind letter of greeting was received with assurances of his interest in the Society's success.

As it was probable that the building now occupied jointly by the Board and the Society would soon be required by Mr. Klein for a Boys' School, means were adopted at this meeting for further increasing the "Brick" fund that property might be purchased at an early day.

The Society found it necessary to keep missionary literature before the people if the cause would be prospered, and although a large number of leaflets of other denominations had been scattered through our Auxiliaries, it was thought wise to call for the best thoughts of our own sisters. A few short productions had been

received and four different styles of leaflets published—a missionary hymn, a poem and two prose essays. Also 1,000 copies of the annual report containing the minutes of each annual meeting, together with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, were published annually.

In compliance with a request made by the Society the year previous that each Branch should, during the year, assume the organization of one other, the Ohio Branch appointed its Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. G. B. Dotson, to visit the Indiana Conference. She effected the organization of a Branch and brought to the notice of the Society one of Indiana's representative women, Mrs. M. J. Morgan, whose heart was full of zeal for the cause, and who from that time forward has been an untiring worker in her own and other Branches.

A PERIODICAL FOR THE SOCIETY.

A letter was read from Rev. C. H. Williams, Secretary of the Board of Missions, offering the Society the *Methodist Protestant Missionary*, a paper published by him in the interest of the Board and which he wished to discontinue.

The question was discussed and a favorable feeling seemed to be entertained by nearly all the members for the acceptance of the paper. It was finally referred to the Executive Committee of the Society, with authority

to accept and issue the paper and make such changes as were necessary to adapt it to the use of the Society if, after further consideration, it should be deemed prudent to do so. The editor of the missionary column of the *Methodist Recorder* was elected editor of the prospective missionary paper.

After adjournment of the annual meeting the Executive Committee were called together at the home of Mrs. J. E. Palmer, on May 21st, to consider the question further. It seemed to require much faith to make the venture; but after some discussion and prayerful consideration, a resolution was adopted, accepting Mr. Williams' offer. The selection of a name for the paper was deferred until the next meeting. The question was asked, "What shall the motto of our paper be?" and the answer came from Mrs. Gillespie, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me," and those words, standing as they did as the head line of our paper, month after month, were an incentive to perseverance, a stimulus to go forward in a labor of love, which often tried the souls of the Committee. All the work connected with the conduct of the paper was entirely new to the Committee. Their being no provision made for expenses, an effort was made to make the paper self-sustaining by filling several columns with advertisements.

It required indefatigable efforts on the part of the editor, who was also publishing agent, to complete all arrangements with advertisers, printers and others, in order to have the paper (which received its name, "Woman's Missionary Record," at the meeting June 10) ready to mail to the subscribers of the *Methodist Protestant Missionary* in July, that being part of the contract entered into with Mr. Williams.

But it was accomplished, and the little paper consisting of twelve pages started out on its monthly visits and was kindly received by its readers, many of whom sent their words of cheer and appreciation; it was also very courteously noticed by the official papers of the church. Fifteen hundred copies were published the first six months—many more than there were subscribers for—but in order to have a surplus to send to churches and conferences, this number was considered necessary. Afterward the issue was reduced to one thousand copies, which came more nearly within the limit of the subscription list. The paper, however, reached its highest circulation in 1886-89, under the efficient management of Miss Gettie Davis, at which time it had a list of eighteen hundred and fifty names. In view of the advent of a paper, all the Society's own, a resolution had been passed at the late annual meeting appointing all Corresponding

Secretaries of Branches, members of the "editorial corps." One of the purposes of the Society in having a paper of its own was, to bring out the latent talent of many who were too reserved in thought and feeling to write for any than their own paper; but the success in this direction was slow, and it required a long time to have the respective Branches occupy the space allotted to each.

The paper became, in woman's missionary work, the medium of communication for all sections of the church, and for the missionaries in Japan; and without doubt, it did much to keep alive zeal and to interest its readers in the subject of missions.

It was sent to missionary societies of all denominations in our own land, also to a few in England and Canada, to missionary training schools, to reading rooms, to all institutions of a missionary character, and in some instances, it was the means of bringing our beloved church to the notice of older denominations for the first time, and of older missionary Societies. Ten complete volumes are now in the Newberry Library, Chicago, where they stand with the periodicals of other denominations, and it is to these that the student of missionary literature especially goes, in his researches for information concerning the missionary work of each denomination.

It was through our *Woman's Missionary Record* that Miss Anna Forrest, who was a student at the missionary training school in Brooklyn, N. Y., first learned of the missionary work of our church, and she at once sought acquaintance with the Society, and became its fifth foreign missionary.

THE MEETING IN PITTSBURG.

The Society was invited to hold its seventh annual meeting in the First Church, Pittsburg, the birth place of the organization. The time had been changed from the first to the third Wednesday in May, 1886.

Five years had transpired since the greeting of a happy home coming had been extended to the Society, and with all the more joy faces were turned homeward. The love-feast, as conducted in the early days of Methodism, had become an established feature of these annual gatherings, and the first, or opening meeting, was always given to this service. This meeting was in charge of Mrs. J. T. Murray, of the Maryland Branch. A portion of Thursday afternoon had also been set aside for religious services, and the first consecration meeting of the Society was conducted by Mrs. A. R. O'Brien, also of the Maryland Branch. These meetings were blessed seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and their hallowed memory still remains.

The responsibilities of the meeting were shared by a large number of delegates. One new Branch, the Onondaga, which had been organized by Rev. J. B. Walker during the session of the annual conference held at Spring Lake, N. Y., in September, 1885, was reported.

Important letters were presented from the foreign work. Some difference had arisen between Miss Crittenden and the Society in regard to the appointment of a foreign treasurer in Miss Brittan's place, and a superintendent of woman's work. In consequence of this Miss Crittenden presented her resignation to the Executive Committee, but there being no one ready to take her place, her resignation was not accepted. Letters explaining the course pursued by the Society were written Miss Crittenden and it was hoped that a fair understanding would cause a peaceful settlement of all real or imaginary wrongs; but in September Miss Crittenden's grievances, which had been increasing rather than diminishing, were again presented to the Executive Committee, accompanied by her resignation; and the Society, not desiring to receive unwilling service longer, took immediate steps to release her.

Several applications from persons desiring to go as missionaries had been presented at the annual meeting, but there were difficulties in the way of each, which pre-

cluded their acceptance, therefore, in the absence of help from the Society, Miss Brown was instructed to employ some person there, if possible, and if not to call to her aid the older scholars of the school. In her letter of October 12th, 1886, she wrote: "I am alone in my work, but it is not being alone that I object to so much as it is that the work is not being done as well as if I had some one else with me. I sincerely hope you will be able to send another missionary soon—as soon as you are sure you have the right person for the place."

Forty-four names were enrolled, and all being boarding scholars, except five, Miss Brown's time was fully occupied. Mr. Klein had kindly assisted her with the school room duties a few hours in the afternoons.

Frequent calls for a missionary were made through the *Woman's Missionary Record* and the church papers. The girls in the school wrote, pleading for the Society to send help before Miss Brown would entirely fail in health. In November she was advised to seek rest, but was unable to leave the school in responsible hands.

On February 26th, 1887, the mail brought tidings that Miss Brown had utterly broken down and was returning to America by the advice of her physician. In a few days a letter came from her dated San Francisco, February 21st: "I cannot tell you," she wrote, "how hard it

was for me to give up my work and leave Japan. When I applied to the doctor for medicine he said it was not medicine, but rest I needed. I tried to do as he advised, but, as I told him, it was easier for him to tell me what to do than for me to do it. I thought that if I could work along till the holidays I could get rest, but I grew worse, and it seemed there was nothing for me to do but to give up my work that was hardly begun. We had a smooth passage and the trip has done me good. On the night of the 20th while on shipboard I knew by the ringing of the bell that we were nearing the American shore. Perhaps you would think it would have given me joy to know that I was so near to home and native land; but as I stood there my thoughts went sadly back over the water to the land I had left so far behind, and what I had left there. Perhaps to a looker on I might have appeared weak and foolish, but I think my Heavenly Father understood the meaning of the tears that fell. I went inside again, and as the tears flowed unbidden, I felt in my heart that if I could be sure of health and strength, sure that I would be doing right in returning, I would be willing to have the ship headed the other way, and retrace every mile of that long voyage to get back to my work, and to those girls I had so learned to love. But no; I must go in the path I had not marked

out for myself. But He who chooses my path for me will be with me at every step. So I go on, trusting that even that which may appear to human eyes a failure, will in His way, and in His time, be to His glory, and will in some way help others."

Miss Crittenden, who was in the employ of the Board of Missions, was appointed by Mr. Klein to take up Miss Brown's work; but very soon thereafter, Mr. Klein was fortunate in securing the services of Rev. and Mrs. George Elmer of the Methodist Episcopal Mission. These two persons faithfully conducted the school and household until the Society was prepared to send out two ladies, which it did at the following annual meeting.

The illness and return of Miss Brown caused much disappointment, but the cloud which seemed so dark had also a silver lining. Letters of sympathy, words of encouragement and offers of service poured in and revealed the fact that a greater love and depth of feeling existed for the work than was at first supposed. From a large number of applicants the Executive Committee opened a correspondence with a few and finally selected two, Miss Jane R. Whetstone, of the Ohio Branch, and Miss M. M. Bonnett, of the West Virginia Branch, whose testimonials seemed to answer the requirements for missionaries more fully than any of the others.

The fact that the Society had no young women in preparation for missionary work from whom it could draw in cases of emergency was greatly deplored, as special training is recognized by all societies as of fundamental importance.

By request of the Executive Committee the two ladies named came to Pittsburg in April for further conference. After a correspondence with the non-resident members of the Committee the two applicants were accepted as missionaries, subject, however, to the decision of the Society at its next meeting, which would be held a few weeks later.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Society, thinking to increase missionary interest in the denomination by holding its annual meeting at a point farther west than heretofore, accepted an invitation from the North Illinois Branch to convene its eighth session at Ohio, Ill., on the third Wednesday in May, 1887.

A most cordial welcome was extended to the members and visiting friends. There was a larger attendance than at any former meeting. Three western Branches had representatives present for the first time, viz.: Mrs. M. J. Morgan, of Indiana; Mrs. J. L. Scott and Miss Conover, of Iowa; Mrs. J. W. Kidd and Mrs. E. J. Johnston, of North Illinois.

The Society regretted the absence of one of its charter members, Mrs. T. H. Colhouer, who, with her husband, was on her way to Japan, he having been appointed by the Board of Missions to Yokohama. Her place as recording secretary was filled by her daughter, Mrs. T. H. Kelley, of the North Illinois Branch.

Miss Brown was present in improved health. Miss Whetstone and Miss Bonnett were also present; both ladies prepared to proceed to Japan, after receiving their appointment from the Society.

Four new Branches were reported—New York, New Jersey, South Illinois and Kansas.

In September, 1886, Mrs. F. A. Brown and Mrs. M. A. Miller, by consent of the Executive Committee, visited the Onondaga Conference at its session in Waterloo, N. Y., seeking to create an interest in the Society's work. They were kindly received and an opportunity given to present the interests of the cause. A large number of subscriptions were received for the *Woman's Missionary Record*. After adjournment of the conference they visited some of the churches and held meetings. The interest never became general throughout the Branch, although several Auxiliaries were formed and money was contributed for several years. No Branch meetings were held, owing, no doubt, to the fact

that our churches in this conference are mostly located in country places. At this time of writing but one Auxiliary remains, that organized by Rev. B. W. Anthony, at Paine's Hollow, having remained steadfast under the care of Mrs. F. W. Myers.

The New York Conference, then in session at Franklinton, N. Y., was also visited by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Miller and a courteous hearing given; but only one Auxiliary was organized, the Franklinton, with thirty members, and it has faithfully reported from year to year.

At the annual meeting of 1886 Mrs. G. B. Dotson had been appointed general organizer, and in that capacity traveled partly through seven conferences, attended five of these in their annual sessions, and had an opportunity afforded her of presenting woman's work to each. The conferences visited were the South Illinois, the North Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Muskingum and Ohio. Of these, South Illinois and Kansas, which, heretofore, had not engaged in the work, were organized by her into Branches. Sixty subscribers were obtained for the *Missionary Record* and six hundred names added to the Society's membership. Mrs. Dotson frequently contributed to the *Record*—her sketches, condensed from "Heroines of the Mission

Field," running through several numbers. She has also added leaflets to the literature of the Society—one of which, "Suggestions to Auxiliaries," was reprinted in 1889. She has prepared a pamphlet of interesting exercises for Young People's Societies, Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, but for want of funds the Society has not yet published it.

At a previous meeting Miss Bonnett had applied for appointment as organizer, but there being no funds in the contingent treasury her appointment was deferred. In the meantime she was employed by the West Virginia Branch, which position she filled until her election as missionary.

The fiscal year of the Society, which had been made to close on February 14th, the date of organization, was changed to March 31st.

This meeting was in session four days and was continued over the Sabbath. The pastor, Rev. J. M. Mayall, preached a very impressive missionary sermon in the morning and in the evening a farewell meeting was held. Miss Whetstone gave an address, which was the means of interesting many in her new work. Miss Brown made the closing address. This was the first meeting at which the Society had had a missionary of its own present to hear from her lips of its own beloved

work, and very attentively all listened as she spoke of the home in Yokohama, which she had so reluctantly left, and she assured those who were going to take her place of a very welcome reception from the pupils she had learned to love so well.

Miss Bonnett had been confined to her room by a slight indisposition and could not be present at any of the meetings, which was a loss to her personally, and a disappointment to all interested. Not fully understanding the agreement of the Society with its missionaries in regard to individual living expenses, and that those expenses were to be met by the missionary herself from her salary (house room being furnished by the Society), Miss Bonnett, after adjournment of the Society, expressed regret to the Corresponding Secretary, in not understanding this arrangement, and seemed to hesitate about fulfilling her agreement, as she thought it impossible to meet those expenses out of a salary of \$500.00. So much regret was shown, and so great a reluctance to proceed manifested, that the Corresponding Secretary, seeing no alternative, as all of the members had departed for their homes, suggested a return till further conference could be had with the committee; but this was refused. After much persuasion, Miss Bonnett concluded to proceed on her journey, and both ladies sailed from San Francisco on June 4th.

The form of contract under which all our missionaries had engaged had been adopted at the fifth annual meeting, and was for a period of five years. Traveling expenses were to be paid by the Society, and \$150.00 was given to each for an outfit, in order that her full time could be devoted to her work.

Each new experience with missionaries had taught the Society new lessons of wisdom, and it found that clear, definite rules were needed for its safe conduct in matters small, as well as great; and at this meeting, and each subsequent annual meeting, the rules governing missionaries, as well as their contract with the Society, received careful attention, and were revised and added to in order to avoid errors or misunderstandings, which unwittingly seemed to force themselves upon the Society. To protect itself from missionaries who resigned through any cause except sickness, a clause with reference to the refunding of money for personal and travelling expenses was inserted in the pledge and contract, which all missionaries were requested to sign, and which reads as follows: "Inasmuch as the equipping and sending out of missionaries is attended with great expense to the Society, and inasmuch as the first year or two of mission life must of necessity be spent in learning the language, or as the case may be, in prepar-

ng for the work, I hereby promise that if I voluntarily leave the employment of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church within five years after my arrival at the station to which I am appointed, to refund to the Society the sum expended by them for outfit and passage to the foreign field. I also promise to give six months' notice of any change of relationship to it or forfeit my salary for that time."

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Maryland Branch for the second time extended its hospitalities to the Society and the ninth annual meeting was held in the Central Church, Washington, D. C., May 9-11, 1888.

The meeting was held two weeks earlier because of the General Conference convening the third week in May, at Adrian, Mich. There was a good representation from the eastern Branches, but from the mid-west section, the North Illinois only was represented by a delegate, Mrs. E. J. Johnson being present as alternate. At the calling of the roll the Genesee, Maryland, Muskingum, North Illinois, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and New Jersey members answered. This was the first time for the New Jersey Branch to be represented by delegates, its President, Mrs. I. D. Coxson, and its Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. I. D. Stultz, being present; also the

Pennsylvania and Genesee by their Presidents, Mrs. N. L. Miller and Miss Mary Moail. Six Branches were represented by letter, four were not heard from.

During the year many important events had occurred, and much responsibility had, necessarily, been borne by the Executive Committee.

By the advice of Rev. T. H. Colhouer, who had kindly consented to assist our missionaries in the selection of a piece of ground, a lot had been purchased at a cost of \$1350.00. Plans and specifications for the building had been sent and were submitted to the Society at this meeting, by Mrs. Palmer. It was found that more money would be required for the buildings than had at first been estimated; also an additional lot was thought absolutely necessary. The "Brick" fund had steadily increased, but after deducting the price of the lot there remained only \$2,470.62.

Efforts were made to have each Branch pledge a certain amount to be raised during the year, but one and another of the delegates declined to do so, thinking it best to trust to voluntary contributions, as heretofore the whole amount in the "Brick" fund had been collected in that way—the sums ranging from five cents upward. Before the meeting adjourned, however, the

obligation to raise the whole amount needed was assumed by the Society without a dissenting voice.

The services of our returned missionary, Miss Brown, had been sought, and during the summer and fall she visited a number of the churches in the West and interested many in the work, mainly through the fact of their hearing of the people of Japan from the lips of one who had lived and labored among them.

A committee of three ladies from different localities was appointed to prepare monthly studies for Auxiliaries to be published in the *Missionary Record*. For a time these studies were promptly supplied and were found of great benefit, but for some reasons the committee suspended after one or two efforts from each person and the *Record* was obliged to use selections for the remainder of the year.

A special hour of prayer on behalf of missions and our missionaries was appointed for Sunday evening, from five to six o'clock, to be observed perpetually.

On the second day of the meeting Rev. F. T. Tagg was present and gave an instructive address. He commended the methods of work, but advised extension by the organizing of Auxiliaries in the Southern and Western Conferences, as in many places where he travelled he found ladies who knew nothing of our organization.

Brother Tagg also stated that he was appointed to represent the church in the World's Missionary Conference to be held in London, June 9th-19th, 1888, and kindly offered to take items from our statistical report and to speak of the Society's interests if an opportunity were afforded. But inasmuch as the writer, who was Corresponding Secretary of the Society, and another member expected to visit London at the time of the convention, the Executive Committee had already appointed them to represent the Society, and the two names had been forwarded to the committee in New York.

At this point in the sketch it may not be amiss to speak of the visit made to the World's Missionary Convention. The Board of Missions and the Society were both represented by their delegates, and although our Society was one of the youngest, yet its report was not the smallest. At the women's meetings, where the methods of women's societies were discussed, ours came in for a share of commendation on account of the freedom of action permitted it; and the writer may be pardoned for a personal allusion, in saying that to a few women, at least, the *Woman's Missionary Record* was no stranger. It had brought our Society to their notice; and more than one hearty handshake was given, thousands of miles from home, because of the acquaintance

made with the editor through our own little paper.

During one of these woman's meetings a committee was formed called "The World's Missionary Committee of Christian Women," the object of which was to effect a means of communication among denominational and union societies for the purpose of securing united effort for any pressing need; for securing united prayer for special objects; and for the arrangement of any general conference which might be thought advisable. At our annual meeting, held the following year, Miss S. A. Lipscomb, of Washington, D. C., was appointed representative for our Society on the above committee.

The Corresponding Secretary, with four other members, was appointed to prepare a memorial to the General Conference which would meet at Adrian, Mich., a few days later, requesting that the former freedom of action granted the Society, and of which it had been deprived at the previous convention be restored. The paper was approved by the Society and, on presentation to the General Conference, the petitions were all granted, the Society being made amenable to that body through a committee of nine women appointed by the Conference.

The reports from foreign work as read at the meeting were encouraging. At the school in Yokohama there

was a fair attendance of pupils, sixteen being supported on scholarships. A wave of religious influence had spread over Japan, of which one of our missionaries wrote: "A continued revival is operating here and all the girls of our school, even the small children, are deeply interested in their soul's salvation. The older girls and the young men in the Sunday school contribute of their own means to purchase religious tracts to spread in the towns and villages around Yokohama, and the young men proclaiming the good news of Christ, the Savior, wherever they can find a listener."

A day school had been opened by Rev. F. C. Klein, at Fugisawa, a few miles distant from Yokohama, with an attendance of more than one hundred pupils, and was in charge of a native teacher. Miss Whetstone gave three afternoons each week to the school, and on Sunday afternoons some of the older girls attended the Mission to preside at the organ and assisted in singing. Four of the girls who had been taught and nurtured in our school were assisting our missionaries, and ten others, with one native teacher, had been converted, baptized and taken into the church by the pastor, Rev. T. H. Colhouer.

As it is the purpose of the Society to follow the Board of Foreign Missions into all of its new fields, so

far as it is able, the Executive Committee felt, when the call came from Mr. Klein, at Nagoya, in 1887, for a girls' school, that it must be answered. Miss Whetstone, accompanied by Mr. Colhouer, had visited Nagoya, which is about 200 miles from Yokohama, and finding that but few missionaries had entered this city of 300,000 people, thought favorably of the enterprise. A letter from Mr. Klein to the Committee urged very strongly the importance of sending a missionary immediately, and the Committee having no one to send, decided to divide the teaching force at Yokohama, and, accordingly, instructed Miss Whetstone to proceed to Nagoya and take with her Ko Tamura, one of the older pupils, as teacher and interpreter.

This she did, and in December, 1887, arrived at Nagoya and took charge of a class of ten girls which Mrs. Klein had gathered and was already engaged in teaching.

Miss Bonnett was left in charge of the Home. With the help of two native teachers and three of the older girls she conducted the school and superintended all the arrangements until in February she was fortunate in securing the help of a resident missionary, Miss Kimball, who took charge of the musical department and assisted Miss Bonnett in the school room.

Miss Jane Roberts, of the Maryland Branch, acted as recording secretary at this meeting. The anniversary sermon was delivered by the pastor, Rev. S. R. Murray, from the text: "The Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." It was very gratefully received and requested for publication in the *Missionary Record*. Sunday evening was devoted to a testimony service, in which nearly all participated, and was a fitting close to a week of delightful fellowship with the members and friends of Central Church, Washington City.

THE SOCIETY AT CAMDEN.

The Society was invited by the New Jersey Branch in 1889 to convene in Memorial Church, Camden, for its tenth annual meeting. From the *Record* the following pen-picture of the meeting, furnished by one who was present, is taken:

"The tenth annual meeting of the General Executive Board of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was not surpassed in interest by any former meeting of the body. Indeed in some respects it surpassed all former gatherings. The attendance of persons not members of the Society was the largest we remember to have seen. The cordial reception given by the hospitable people of Camden, N. J., the efforts made by the pastor of the church to make the occasion pleasant and profitable to all concerned, the sympathy manifested by the New Jersey preachers, a number of whom, with their presi-

dent at their head, were in attendance on as many of the sessions as their other duties would admit, the seriousness, intelligence, and earnest desire to do right, evinced by members of the Board, and the presence of new members, whose zeal and quickness to learn made them a valuable acquisition to the body, are points worthy of special notice. It was a privilege to take part in the devotional services. Judging by our own experience it was good to be there, on account of the spiritual quickening realized. Any one who contrasted this with earlier annual meetings of the Board, could not fail to mark the intellectual and spiritual development of those who had long been connected with it. These women have not prayed, and wept, and given their time and money in vain. They have already received compensation in the enrichment of their own spiritual natures in addition to the good which they have been instrumental in doing to others at home as well as abroad.

"It seemed at first a measure of doubtful propriety to incur the expense necessarily involved in bringing together a number of women from various parts of the country every year, but the educational value of these assemblies, the enlarging of sympathies, the stimulus given to Christian workers, and the increase of their number, is more than an offset for all the money expended in this way. The women have been sowing good seed, and the day is not distant when the church, at home and abroad, will reap a harvest with rejoicing. Our brethren need not be alarmed at the going forth of gleaners, for they have only picked up that which, without them, would not have been gathered, and in addition, they have been doing that which will make it easier instead of more difficult for their brethren to gather in augmented quantities hereafter.

"The presence of Rev. F. C. Klein and his wife, with

Miss Brown of the Japan Mission, was not only a pleasure for the members of the Executive Committee, but afforded the former an opportunity to render assistance and offer suggestions which were appreciated by the latter, and will enable them to prosecute their work with hopefulness and satisfaction. It is desirable on all accounts that conferences between the different workers should be as frequent as possible, and that mutual help should be offered and accepted with cheerfulness."

Two new Branches were reported. The appointment of organizers had been left with the Executive Committee, with instructions to send out as many as the contingent fund would permit. Accordingly Mrs. M. J. Morgan was sent to the West Michigan and Indiana Conferences. The organization of the West Michigan with six Auxiliaries was the result, besides the quickening of a number of Auxiliaries in the Michigan and Indiana Branches, and an addition of 108 names to the membership.

Mrs. J. H. Rupp, of the Baltimore Branch, offered her services, gratuitously, to travel among some of the charges of that conference. She with her friend, Mrs. Dodge, visited a large number of the country churches, as well as some in the city, travelled more than 915 miles, organized new Auxiliaries and Mission Bands and revived old ones. The report of Mrs. Rupp, as read before the Maryland Branch quarterly meeting, in which

she recounts the wonderful opening to the work, the spiritual blessings which followed, the kind reception from pastors, the enthusiasm kindled in many hearts for the spread of Christ's Kingdom, produced, we think, in those who heard it, joy not unlike that which was felt by the Church at Antioch on the apostles' return from their tour among the churches, when they "rehearsed all things that God had done for them."

Mrs. Dodge and Mrs. Rupp were present at the Camden meeting. The latter imparted to all a new zeal by her own warm interest in the work; and the presence of Mrs. Dodge, who, though more than three score and ten years of age, and holding membership in a sister denomination, inspired by her love for our work an interest not forgotten; and a few years later when devising her estate she bequeathed the sum of \$2,000 to the Society, this being the first bequest ever received by it.

The Washington and Alexandria Branch was formed by Miss S. A. Lipscomb in November, 1888, out of the Auxiliaries of the Maryland Branch in Washington and Alexandria, which were too far distant to attend, conveniently, the quarterly meetings. This Branch reported five Auxiliaries and was the direct result of the meeting of the Society the year previous in Central Church, Washington City. Its president, Miss Lipscomb, was

elected recording secretary of the Society at this meeting.

The Minnesota Conference was represented by one Auxiliary, which was organized at Welcome, Minn., in 1887. In September, 1888, at the session of the annual conference, a Branch was organized. A few faithful ones kept the work alive for about three years, when the Branch finally ceased to report and is not now on our list.

At several previous annual meetings the subject of organizing a Woman's Home Missionary Society, which should take up work in the neglected portions of our own country, had been presented and discussed; but owing to the large responsibilities resting on the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and the improbability of our being able to enlist those who had not identified themselves with the foreign work, the formation of a home mission board was not thought advisable.

Resolutions from the Ohio Branch were presented in favor of home mission work, and of combining it with our foreign work in one society; but after free expression the conclusion was reached that it was inexpedient to unite both, the members being confirmed in this opinion by the action of the late General Conference, which divided the work that since 1834 had been done by the

Board of Home and Foreign Missions and committing it to separate agencies.

The "Memorial" membership was a new feature added at this meeting. It was suggested by a gift of ten dollars from a friend of woman's work, who desired to have the name of his beloved wife, Luella Chandler, of the Muskingum Branch, and lately deceased, continued in the Society. More than twenty names have since been added. The names of life members are printed from year to year with the annual report, and as one after another is called to a "higher service" the name is marked, but the beloved worker is not forgotten—"only gone before" is the thought which comes to the reader of the yearly increasing list. The names of a few honorary managers have been added from time to time by a gift of fifty dollars. The number at present is only eight, and the fact of there being so few shows that the funds of the Society are not much increased by the large gifts, but by the accumulation of the small amounts. The name of Mrs. J. J. Murray stood alone for several years, but about this time three others, Mrs. Wm. Morrison, Mrs. J. E. Palmer and Mrs. M. A. Miller, were honored by a place on the list through a gift made by Mr. Wm. Morrison, of Allegheny. At the Toronto meeting Mr. W. K. Gillespie generously gave the name of his wife,

Mrs. Ada Gillespie, who is one of our most faithful helpers; and from the West came the name of Mrs. W. H. Jordan, one of the first to encourage organization in the North Illinois Branch. Since that time the First Church, Allegheny, has given the names of two of its honored workers—Mrs. Annie C. Wragg and Mrs. Thomas Brown.

The question whether the Society should meet biennially instead of annually was thoroughly discussed, but the prevailing sentiment was for annual meetings.

Miss Florence A. Hammond, of the Baltimore Branch, was placed in charge of the monthly studies for Auxiliaries, which were to be published in the *Record*. She has from that time to the present, with the exception of one year, performed this service and has given us studies of rare excellence.

A number of missionary candidates made application during the year, one of whom, Miss Anna L. Forrest, who was engaged in city mission work in Brooklyn, N. Y., was accepted and appointed to assist Miss Whetstone in Nagoya. She was present and impressed all favorably by her earnestness and sincere purpose to do good.

The anniversary sermon was preached on Sunday morning by Rev. C. D. Sinkinson from the text: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations."

By a pains-taking process the pastor had made an estimate of the amount of money contributed per member by fifteen of our largest conferences. The showing was such as would not lead any member present to indulge in a self-gratulatory spirit, but would the rather cause her to stir up herself and others to a proper sense of the proportionate amount due to this part of our Master's vineyard.

On Sunday evening a Thank-offering service was held, at which gifts were received for the Home in Yokohama, amounting to \$332.40—the thank-offerings from Auxiliaries in different Branches being included in this amount.

THE MEETING AT TORONTO.

The eleventh annual meeting was held at Toronto, Ohio, May 21-25, 1891, in the Muskingum Branch. The opening session was on Wednesday evening. The reports showed an increase in members, as did also the Treasurer's reports in receipts. Two general organizers, Mrs. Morgan and Miss Brown, had been in the field part of the year. The former visited the West Virginia Branch, spent about four weeks, organized four Mission Bands, and received 127 members. Miss Brown visited the New Jersey Branch, and organized fourteen Mission Bands with a membership of 310, and

four Auxiliaries with forty members. In the New York Branch she organized five Mission Bands, membership 116, and six Auxiliaries, membership 112. In February 1890, by direction of the Executive Committee she visited the North Carolina Conference, organized eleven Auxiliaries, with a membership of 106, and one Mission Band with eighteen members.

In January, 1890, the Executive Committee received from Rev. T. H. Colhouer a very satisfactory statement of all expenses incurred in the building of the Home in Yokohama, also of the disbursements of all moneys sent him for this purpose, which statement was presented at this meeting. The building, out-buildings, and improvements of the grounds had cost \$5,778.80. In October, 1889, the school had been removed to the new building, thus saving a rent of seventy dollars a month. The building had received only two coats of paint, the intention being to complete it and make some out-door improvements as the means would permit.

When Mrs. Scott, treasurer of the "Brick" fund, read her report, it was found that very nearly the whole amount asked for in 1888 at the Washington meeting had been collected. This was the result of the united effort decided upon at that time. Immediately after the adjournment of that meeting several propositions were

started on the "share plan" and published in the official church papers and the *Record*. Mrs. E. J. Johnson, of the North Illinois Branch, took the lead with an offer to be one of ten persons to raise five hundred dollars. Her daughter followed, offering to be one of twenty to raise two hundred dollars. The different Branches took up the plan, old and young went to work, the dimes and dollars came in with increasing rapidity, and, with the result as stated above. The entire cost of the property, including the purchase of the lots, was over seven thousand dollars. This amount had been collected from November, 1880, when the first "brick" was sold, to May 22d, 1890. Much of it represented real sacrifice in the giving, as many letters written only for the eye of the Treasurer to see, would show. The following we take the liberty to use in this sketch, as indicative of the spirit with which much of the money was raised, and which gifts the Lord has assuredly blest.

"DEAR MRS. SCOTT:

Can my one 'brick' find a humble place in the Woman's Home? As you are the Treasurer may I tell you how I came to dare offer such a trifle? I never read a call for help either for home or foreign missions, without feeling a longing to respond liberally to help on the good work; but I am only a poor widow, in feeble health, dependent upon others for a home, and upon what little I can earn for all other necessities. One day while grieving over my inability to help the Woman's Home in

Japan, and other causes, the thought came to me that the Master did not reject the 'widow's mite.' That thought brought comfort, and I humbly promised the Lord I would send one-tenth of whatever I earned next month, feeling quite sure it could be no less than ten 'bricks,' as I had work engaged ahead enough to come to that. But sickness came, days and weeks of suffering, and so the month passed and only one dollar was earned—just *one* little 'brick' for the Master's cause. Then came a long struggle with pride, the tempter all the while telling me that such a meagre offering would do more harm than good, and much more; but I will not weary you by telling you all my trials, I will only say my pride was humbled, for, like too many others, I wanted to do *some great thing*, but I could not forget that I had promised the dear Lord that I would send *whatever* He gave me to send, and so with a humble heart I send you this just as I promised I would do, praying His blessing would go with it, and hoping that I may yet be able to add more bricks to this lonely one."

Mrs. Scott faithfully attended to the entering of each name in her book, with the amount contributed, and acknowledged it weekly in the *Methodist Recorder*. The total amount of the fund collected, and without any expense to the Society, was \$7,930.68. A vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Scott for her devoted labors, and the careful management of the funds entrusted to her. A gift of five hundred dollars had been received from Dr. and Mrs. Colhouer towards the improvements; also, they personally assumed all the debt remaining against the Home at the time of the rendering of the account,

paying it from their private funds, and awaited the Society's convenience to reimburse them. Our missionaries, Misses Whetstone and Bonnett, also contributed liberally to the new building. As an expression of the appreciation of the services rendered the Society by Dr. Colhouer, the following was adopted at the Toronto meeting:

“WHEREAS, Dr. and Mrs. Colhouer, of the Church's Mission Board, have rendered very efficient service to the Woman's Foreign Board in superintending the erection of our home in Yokohama, therefore, be it

“*Resolved*, That the Executive Board do hereby render cordial thanks to them for the service, sympathy and co-operation so cheerfully given; also that we highly appreciate their donation of five hundred dollars towards the completion of our buildings and we pray that the Father of mercies may bless them abundantly in all spiritual grace and enable us to emulate their generous and self denying example.”

At the election of officers, Mrs. Scott desiring to be relieved of her office, Mrs. J. D. Anderson, the general treasurer, was elected to take charge of the fund being raised for the Nagoya work. Mrs. M. A. Miller having served in the capacity of corresponding secretary for ten years, also being editor of the *Woman's Missionary*

Record, declined re-election, and Mrs. J. J. Murray, of the Baltimore Branch, was elected to that office. All the other officers were continued.

Rev. Wm. Hastings, pastor of the Toronto church, preached an excellent sermon Sabbath morning, on woman's devotion to the Master and His work. In the afternoon a children's meeting was held, led by Mrs. T. G. Valiant and Miss Brown. The evening meeting was addressed by Miss Brown, who awakened warm interest in the work and won many hearts to its support.

THE NAGOYA MISSION.

The work at Nagoya was making slow progress, as the missionaries found many obstacles in their way. It was, comparatively, a new mission field, there being no resident missionaries in the city when Rev. F. C. Klein, of the Church Board, moved there in 1887 and opened a mission. The M. E. Church had, in 1878, organized a church with a few members, and the Union Church had also been working there for a few years. But in this great city, the fourth in the empire, with its dense population, and a stronghold of Buddhism, a very small beginning had been made. Our missionaries found that the people, although ready to accept foreign customs in order to bring their country up to the standard of other nations, were not yet ready to give up their religion to accept Christianity.

Mr. Klein succeeded, however, in organizing, very soon after his arrival, a day school, a night school, and a Sunday school, and a little later a church with nineteen members. The Anglo-Japanese College, a high grade school for young men and boys, with a theological department, was opened by him soon after. "Lafayette Cottage," the gift of Lafayette Avenue Methodist Protestant Church, Baltimore, was built on the same property, being one of the finest sites in the city for mission purposes, and is used as a residence for the missionaries. A college boarding hall was added in 1892. Rev. L. L. Albright was sent out by the Board of Missions in 1887 to assist Mr. Klein. Several out-stations were established, three or four Sunday schools organized, and soon five young men were being educated in the college for the ministry. It was at this point that the first Junior Christian Endeavor Society in Japan was organized.

Miss Whetstone had rented a small Japanese house and was conducting a school with some degree of success. Of her new work she wrote in January, 1888:

"Japan is a charming country, and for those who can remain in Yokohama, Tokyo, or other cities long open to foreigners, there is not much sacrifice made in coming here, except it be in leaving one's friends; but to enter on a new field, as in Nagoya, there is much to try one's soul. It is an easy matter to work when everything is

ready; easy to talk when you can do your own talking; but to oversee and plan with others through an interpreter is a very different matter. I pray hourly for patience. The people are very much opposed to the Bible, more so here than in any other place in Japan. Brother Klein organized a church with sixteen persons, but only two of that number were women. Just the opposite in our country where the larger part of the church is composed of women. But these poor women are so kept down. Here they think it no use to educate girls, so it is only a few of the better class that receive any education. I have been requested to teach in two of their schools, and shall do so, if nothing prevents, during the hours of Japanese study in our own. We have arranged to have a Christmas entertainment. My girls had never heard of Christmas. Just to think of the many, many years since Christ came into the world and yet how many millions there are who have never heard of Him! As O Ko San would be much disappointed without an entertainment of some kind, I concluded to have a supper for our girls on Christmas evening. There were only nine. Two married women did not come, but the single ones came and were delighted. It was the first meal, prepared by a foreigner, they had ever eaten. It was somewhat awkward for them to handle knife and fork, but they did better than I could have done eating with their chop-sticks. It is Japanese style for guests to take home what is left, but for once they were defeated in what they call *politeness*, as the food which was left would not bear transportation; however, they secured a little of it to show their parents. Although I was very tired preparing the meal it repaid me to see the girls enjoying themselves so well. They are as bright and intelligent as our girls at home, and far more polite. You would be surprised to find how fair some of them

are after what you have read of their dark complexion. The girls thanked us over and over for our kindness and brought us presents. These people are taught to hate foreigners, especially Christians. A few evenings ago, one man, who was quite friendly to Brother Klein when he first came, lectured against Christianity and advised the people to have nothing to do with the missionaries, as they were bad men. They had not left their homes, he said, spending time and money for nothing, but some day they would do them harm. Poor soul! He judges rightly that we are here for something, and although there are many discouragements to contend with, and the opposition to the Bible is great, yet we intend to stand by the Book, committing ourselves and this work into the care of our Heavenly Father."

The school did not increase fast, owing, Miss Whetstone said, to the poor buildings and the want of funds to secure proper school appliances. Influences other than these were operating in our work, not only in Nagoya, but throughout Japan—influences over which missionary societies had no control, and which were sadly interfering with evangelistic and Christian educational work.

A wave of national prejudice had succeeded the former one, which accepted all things foreign, and missionaries in all parts of the empire were meeting the same difficulties which naturally followed this revulsion of feeling. Of this period (1891) one missionary writes:

"We find ourselves fallen on strange times, the work

very much retarded and interfered with by the political excitement—our labor as foreign missionaries almost rendered ineffectual, so far as direct work is concerned, by the opposition of the excessively national spirit of the times. This has been on the increase for two years or more, but during the past year has increased so rapidly that from a spirit of grateful docility which was formerly manifested toward us, a critical and supercilious spirit prevails in all the large centers; so much so that in such places the native preachers are restive of control or advice and the people refuse to hear the foreigner. The native Christians in such places are determined to manage their own affairs, only being willing to receive our financial help.”

WORK IN YOKOHAMA.

Of the work in Yokohama Miss Bonnett wrote about the same time:

“This beautiful land presents so many attractions in climate, people and country, that I wonder there is not a greater influx of workers. As you know, Miss Whetstone moved to Nagoya and took Ko, one of our girls who had been in the school a long time, with her. We were sorry to part with Ko, as she was in the ‘A’ class, and would have soon been graduated, but Miss Whetstone could not go without an interpreter. Taka, another one of the ‘A’ class, was sent to Fugisawa to take charge of the work there, which Miss Whetstone was obliged to relinquish. This leaves two girls of the class, and of these, Matsu helps me, teaching nearly all the forenoon; the other, May Higginbottom, a Eurasian girl, helps me, and both give whatever time they can after that to their own studies; so you see it is impossible to have a graduating class this year, but we are hop

ing we may have help from home, so that we can bring these girls together next year to finish their studies and prepare for greater usefulness. Our church work is growing rapidly. I had the pleasure of seeing ten of our girls taken into the church a few Sundays ago. One is a young lady who assists in our Japanese school. She is in my Sunday school class, and coming to me a few evenings ago she spoke of being so happy in the Savior's love. There is nothing more soul cheering than such fruits of missionary labor. Japan is producing a rich harvest, but oh ! how much more would there be were there more reapers."

Miss Kimball proved to be an excellent assistant to Miss Bonnett. She instructed the older girls thoroughly in Bible studies and a number became well fitted as Sunday school teachers and Bible readers. Several were taught instrumental music, and were capable of presiding at the organ and assisting in the church service. A piano being desired for the Home, and a request being presented to the Society, Miss Lipscomb secured generous donations and the instrument was purchased.

Mrs. T. H. Colhouer gave valuable assistance by visiting native homes, having as her helper one of the girls from our Home. In February, 1889, she wrote of this work:

"One part of my work at present is visiting among the native women at their homes, with an interpreter. and teaching them the word of God. I have never but in one instance been refused admission. I cannot de-

scribe my feelings when I look into these faces and think of these immortal souls entirely destitute of a knowledge of their Creator, and yet pressing on toward eternity. Oh, what a work to do here, and how few, comparatively, to do it. The work in the schools is all right, but if we do not do more than this, the conversion of Japan will be a very slow work and I fear that the present generation will pass away before the gospel reaches them. In the houses where we visit we find the shrines and vessels of incense and candles for the performance of heathen worship, yet they do not like to admit that they believe these images to be gods, but they say it is necessary to have them in the house, and it is Japanese custom, and I suppose they do not like to give up the customs of their ancestors. I must tell you that our native Christians are very proud of their new church and by the last ship we received a splendid bell—a gift from St. John's Church, Baltimore. We had been moving round from place to place wherever we could find a room in which to hold service, so you may imagine how thankful we all feel, missionaries as well as natives; and we are praying that God will so richly pour out His spirit that this new temple may be filled with His glory. Several of the young men in our school and two from the outside have professed conversion, and are waiting till our quarterly meeting for baptism. There is a wide field for workers, and if the Society could afford it, we ought to have some whose business it would be to do regular missionary work among the people, and have Sunday schools in different places to reach that class which is totally ignorant. Every time I go out among the families I come home feeling so sad because I cannot do more and cannot get access to more people; and as they sit and look at us with open eyes and ears, listening to our strange message, I feel that it would

not be difficult to teach them if we only had the time."

Circumstances seeming to require a change in the distribution of our corps of teachers, in November, 1890, the Executive Committee instructed Miss Bonnett to proceed to Nagoya and Miss Whetstone to return to Yokohama as principal of the school. Miss Whetstone complied with the instructions and left Miss Forrest in charge of the work, she being assisted by one native male teacher, and having also some help from Miss Herati, a girl from our Yokohama school, who had, by Mr. Klein's request, been sent to this country and educated at the Western Maryland College.

In March, 1891, the Executive Committee received a letter from Miss Bonnett, in Yokohama, informing them that she was returning to her home for rest by the advice of her physician.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Washington Street Church, Baltimore, opened its doors for the twelfth annual meeting and the first session was held Wednesday evening, the pastor, Rev. W. S. Hammond, conducting the services. A larger representation was present than at any former meeting. Rev. F. T. Tagg brought greetings from the Board of Missions and Mrs. Colhouer sent greeting from Japan. On Thursday afternoon Miss M. E. Good, of Alexandria,

led a very profitable consecration service. Miss Brown and Miss Bonnett were present and gave instructive addresses. Miss Brown was very desirous of returning to Japan, but her health was not sufficiently restored to warrant the Society's sending her out. She was continued as publishing agent of the *Woman's Missionary Record*. The conducting of this paper so as to make it self-supporting had been a never failing topic for discussion at these meetings, and this one was no exception to former ones. Numerous plans were suggested to increase the circulation and to obtain a more general support from the Society, as the policy was to use none of the general funds to carry on any of the Society's interests at home. Warm expressions for the continuance of the paper were given; the only hindrance in its way was that a few dollars balance on the wrong side of the ledger had been presented at three consecutive meetings. An unexpected, but much appreciated gift of fifty-five dollars was, through the kindness of Miss Lipscomb, given by the Washington and Alexandria Branch. Faltering ones took courage with the promise of better support and more personal interest for its success. Its editor declined re-election, but there being no one ready to accept the office she reluctantly consented to serve another year.

Miss Lizzie Murray, of the Maryland Branch, was prevailed upon to open a children's department, which she conducted very acceptably for about two years. Miss Annie R. Appleget, of the New Jersey Branch, succeeded her and is still adding interest to the columns by a correspondence with the children.

The term of service for which missionaries were to be employed was, at this time, changed from five to eight years.

By invitation of Rev. F. T. Tagg two ladies, Mrs. N. R. Seeman and Mrs. J. J. Murray, were elected to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Missions to be held in Baltimore in May, 1892.

Memorial services were held on the third day, commemorative of Mrs. A. R. O'Brien, a member of the General Executive Board, and the first corresponding secretary of the Maryland Branch.

The following, written by Miss Jane R. Roberts, a life-long friend of our departed sister, is one of the many worthy tributes presented on this occasion:

IN MEMORIAM.

"Reverently and tenderly we would record our appreciation of the lovely Christian character of our dear sister, Mrs. A. R. O'Brien, our sorrow for her early departure from us, and the loss to our Branch and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of her wise counsels and faithful service.

"She was nurtured by devoted Christian parents, and

in early life gave her heart to the Savior. Her married life was an exceptionally pleasant one, and in the society of her loved companion and the training of her young family she spent many happy, tranquil days.

"Hers was by no means a negative character; she had clear convictions of right and strength of will to carry them out, and was also possessed of a faculty for keen satire, a dangerous weapon in the hands of a worldling, but powerful for good in the hands of one whose life is regulated by divine love. Our Heavenly Father had a wider sphere of usefulness for her to fill, and prepared her for her special work by a baptism of sorrow. The dark cloud that had been silently gathering, suddenly burst upon her with overwhelming force—her beloved was taken from her. For a time she was almost paralyzed, but in the midst of the storm she heard a voice she recognized, saying, 'It is I, be not afraid.' She arose from that sorrow a consecrated woman, taking up the burden of life, trusting in His promise who has said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' Her first duty was the education of her children; how nobly she executed her task we are witnesses. Then came a call from conference to organize a woman's foreign missionary society for the Maryland District, and a meeting was held in St. John's Church, Liberty Street, on April 6, 1881. A Society was organized, and Sister O'Brien was elected corresponding secretary. It is but just to say that the early success of the Maryland Branch was largely owing, under Divine Providence, to the untiring labors of the corresponding secretary. She depended on divine help, yet availed herself of everything that came in her way that would tend to qualify her for her work. She loved to attend the Tuesday morning consecration meetings; she said they helped her so much. Those who heard her pray in the Auxiliary meetings

might have known that she was getting rapidly ready for her upward journey; her prayers were simple, childlike, addressed to a Father who was very near. The dear Savior was even then gently loosening the bonds that united her to this earthly sphere; her strength gradually declined; change of air and absolute rest were enjoined with no avail; patiently and without a murmur she passed through the severe ordeal of physical pain, and 'was not, for God took her.' 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.'

"May we who loved her profit by her bright example, and with renewed hope and new consecration follow on in the Master's service until we are called home to join the innumerable company of the redeemed, and join in the glad song, 'To Him that hath loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood be glory, honor and power forever and ever. Amen.'"

The office held by Mrs. O'Brien was filled by her daughter, Mrs. N. R. Seeman, who gave several years of devoted service, when family afflictions caused her to relinquish the work, and her place was very acceptably filled by Mrs. Henry Hupfield, the present corresponding secretary.

On Sunday morning a very profitable love feast service was conducted by Mrs. Jane Lucas, of the Pittsburg Branch, after which Rev. W. S. Hammond preached an inspiring and appropriate anniversary sermon from Matthew xxviii: 18, 19, 20.

The anniversary sermons delivered before the Society from year to year by the pastors, have always called

forth the gratitude of every member. Frequently they have been solicited for publication in leaflet form, but as yet but few have been published. Without exception they are highly worthy of being preserved in the literature of the Society, and should be sent forth through our Auxiliaries on their educating mission.

A children's meeting was a feature of the afternoon service, and in the evening addresses were given by the returned missionaries, Misses Brown and Bonnett.

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Pittsburg Branch extended its hospitalities again to the Society, and the thirteenth annual meeting was convened in Grace Church, Sharpsburg, Pa., on May 18th, 1892.

At roll call nineteen delegates answered to their names. A number of ministers on their way to the seat of the General Conference in Westminster, Md., visited the meeting on the first day. It was greatly regretted by all that the sessions of the Society and the General Conference were being held about the same time, as it prevented the attendance of many who would, otherwise, have been present. It was also desired to have Dr. Colhouer present, he having recently returned from Japan; but his attendance at the Board of Missions meeting in Baltimore prevented.

The Committee on juvenile work recommended the bringing into our ranks for membership the very young children—from the infant of days to those of five years, through an organization to be known as the “Precious Jewels.” This was kept up for several years, the membership fee being fifteen cents per year, and a very goodly number of names were enrolled, but for want of keeping it before the Auxiliaries the interest has died out.

In January, 1892, our corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. J. Murray, requested to be relieved of her office. Mrs. D. S. Stephens was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and at this meeting was elected to that office for the ensuing year.

As the Treasurer of the “Brick” fund had been made *ex officio* a member of the executive board of the Society, that office was conferred on Mrs. C. B. Fornshil, a member of the Maryland Branch, in order to give that Branch a larger representation in the Executive Board. Mrs. J. D. Anderson, its present incumbent, reported \$466.62 in the treasury, this being the commencement of a fund for a lot and buildings in Nagoya.

One of the important questions discussed was the further extension of work at Nagoya. The school had not been successful, owing to circumstances named

elsewhere in this sketch, and as no regular school work had been conducted for more than a year, it was a question with some of the members whether it would not be wiser to suspend any further outlay of money until a school building could be erected and the mission under the church board better established; also as the teaching force was quite limited, and it was necessary that our older girls should complete their studies instead of being taken for teachers, the committee to whom this question was referred recommended a concentration of effort at Yokohama until the next year, when the Society would be better prepared to extend the work and to erect a building. The report met with strong opposition from some of the members. The subject was thoroughly discussed and a tie vote resulted, but was finally decided in favor of continuing the school and permitting Miss Forrest to remain at Nagoya.

In answer to a call for a missionary Miss Amelia J. Rowe, a member of our church at Troy Mills, Iowa, and a student at the Moody institute, made application to the Executive Committee. She was present at this meeting, was accepted and appointed to Yokohama. As Miss Whetstone's term of service would expire on June 22d, Miss Brittan, who was still in Yokohama, was requested to take supervision of our school and home

until Miss Whetstone's successor should arrive. Also she was asked to give whatever assistance might be required by Miss Rowe in her new position.

As Miss Forrest's time, heretofore, had been given more to general evangelistic service, rather than to the establishment of woman's specific work, rules were adopted requiring her to adhere strictly to the Society's instructions, and to direct her energies to the gathering in of girls who might be educated for future usefulness, and to leave the work among men and boys to the missionaries of the church board.

It having been brought to the notice of the Society that the published reports of the Japan annual missionaries' meeting or conference contained no statistics of the Society's work, nor any reference to it whatever as an organization, some action was requested in order that the Society might have proper recognition as one of the agencies of the church.

A resolution was passed instructing the delegates to the General Conference to petition for the privilege of representing the interests of the Society and having its statistical report included in that of the Japan Mission and in the annual conference when it should be formed. The committee-elect, Mrs. D. S. Stephens and Mrs. F. A. Brown, presented the petition referred to above; also

the quadrennial report of the Society, both of which received the kind and courteous consideration of the brethren. Not only was the privilege given of having our work included in the annual report of the Japan annual conference, but provision was made for membership in the conference of all missionaries sent out by the Society. The number comprising the General Conference Executive Committee was, at this time, changed from eleven to thirteen.

The anniversary sermon on this occasion was preached by the pastor, Rev. G. C. Sheppard, to an appreciative audience, from the text Acts xiii: 47: "I have set thee for a light of the Gentiles that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

After the Sunday school session the children were addressed by a number of the ladies. In the evening two interesting addresses were given by Mrs. Colhouer and Miss Brown, after which the Lord's Supper was administered.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

The evangelistic work in Nagoya was more successful in Miss Forrest's hands than the educational work had proved to be, and while she endeavored to follow instructions in regard to establishing a school, she wrote the Executive Committee, pleading for permission to

still continue her beloved work among the men and boys at the out station in Fushimicho. The Society had advised the discontinuance of this work through information given by Rev. Dr. T. H. Lewis, who visited Japan in the interest of the Board of Missions, and who advised a concentration of our forces, rather than a weakening of them by diffusive efforts.

But Miss Forrest's earnest supplications in behalf of this work, and her strong protests against its abandonment, caused the committee to consent to her continuing it; and moreover, as Miss Whetstone had written the committee that she had concluded to remain in Japan and would accept work in Nagoya under the Society, it was decided to appoint her as principal of the school. The purpose in Mr. Klein's suggestion, when he advised the Society's taking up work in this city, was to establish a high grade Christian school for women and girls, so that it should be to the Society what the Anglo-Japanese College was to the Church Board—a center for our educational work. A small beginning toward this purpose was made when Miss Whetstone in 1887 took charge of a class of ten girls gathered by Mrs. Klein. Owing, doubtless, to the small appropriations which the Society was able to make, the school did not have a vigorous start, and it labored

under that embarrassment from year to year, and although Miss Forrest reported at the annual meeting of 1893 a school of fifty small boys and girls, yet one year later, when she left Nagoya to return home for rest, the school had practically been disbanded.

Miss Forrest was an indefatigable worker, but her power lay more directly in the line of evangelistic work than in building foundations on which the Society might raise a permanent superstructure. Miss Whetstone was also untiring in her labors for the cause, but on her return to Nagoya, she too, owing to discouragements in efforts to establish a school, took up evangelistic work; so that the purpose of the Society to make Nagoya the educational center was for the time frustrated, and by action of the annual meeting of 1894 the Nagoya school was made, as far as was practicable, a preparatory school to the Yokohama Training School. Rev. A. R. Morgan had been sent by the church Board to Yokohama in August, 1889. On Mr. Klein's return to America in April, 1893, Mr. Morgan succeeded him at Nagoya. Of the religious status of Japan at this period, and the unrest prevailing, Mr. Morgan wrote:

"To add to the confusion of the hour, certain political demagogues have undertaken the formation of the great Japan Union, an organization whose object is to forbid foreigners living in the interior to discuss or agi-

tate certain international questions which indirectly affect Christianity, and which have very clearly shown the temper of the people. The government is not so stable as could be desired. The members of the Diet are divided into several political parties, none of which are strong enough to carry out a definite line of policy, if they had one, and yet all sufficiently united to combine in opposition to anything the men in power may propose. And so there has been only turmoil and strife since the opening of the Diet. If some self seeking demagogue, with capacity to organize and lead the masses, whose voices are being heard as never before, and whose ignorant prejudices are as strong as when they shut up Japan for centuries, should rise up, we may some fine day find the missionaries shut out of the interior and confined to the open ports, and, with a closing of the interior to foreign intercourse, the hearts and minds of this people will be closed to the only power that can probe their moral rottenness."

In January, 1890, Rev. E. H. Van Dyke had been sent out by the Board and appointed to Shizuoka, a place equally distant from Nagoya and Yokohama. In August, 1893, Revs. I. F. Smith and U. G. Murphy were sent out by the Board, each for the term of ten years. Mr. Morgan wrote in February, 1893, of our work in Yokohama, and as it gives his views concerning the influence of our school after his observations of three years we are glad to give it a place in this record:

"O'Chika San, one of the girls who completed her course in school last summer, and has since been engaged in teaching in the school, starts to-morrow for

Shizuoka, where she will remain temporarily, pending the consent of the Society at home, which will no doubt be granted, and meanwhile open a work with women there in connection with a promising opening just made by Brother Van Dyke. She says she goes believing that God has called her to that work. We shall miss her in Yokohama; but while this is so, it is a pleasure to feel that one so well qualified can be spared from the work here to begin elsewhere where the field is white unto the harvest. While speaking of the girls' school and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society workers in Yokohama, I may be pardoned for going a little more into particulars. There are now fifteen supported pupils in the school; two or three of them have already completed a course of study and are engaged in teaching in the school and indirect evangelistic work. A number of other advanced pupils devote a part of their time to evangelistic work, and of the entire fifteen supported pupils fourteen are either engaged, or profess themselves desirous to engage, when the proper time comes, in Christian work. Through the agency of these workers the mental horizon of these girls has been enlarged a thousand fold. They have been brought to a knowledge of the true and living God, and are being rooted and grounded in the truth. Had the Society never accomplished anything but what it has done for these girls, it might well claim to have succeeded; but in preparing them for evangelistic work among their own people, under the blessing of God, forces boundless in effect are being set in motion. There is no nobler work, no work deserving of higher praise than that of Christian women in America in their efforts to elevate the women of Japan."

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Bridgeton Church of the New Jersey Branch invited the Society to that city for the entertainment of the fourteenth annual meeting, 1893. The church had just closed a series of revival meetings, and the atmosphere was favorable for the business of a Foreign Missionary Society. Eighteen Branches were represented by delegates or by letter; three were not heard from, but as the Treasurer's reports showed moneys received from them, they were still regarded as active Branches.

A letter of greeting was read from the Board of Missions bidding the Society God speed in all its efforts.

From a number of missionaries who applied to the Executive Committee during the year, Miss Margaret Kuhns, a member of our church at Stahlstown, Pa., and Miss Annette R. Lawrence, at that time engaged in city mission work at the Moody Institute, Chicago, were approved and the names presented to the Society. The latter was accepted and appointed to Yokohama, with instructions to join Miss Rowe as early as possible, she being alone in the work, as Miss Brittan had not been able to comply with the Society's request to render assistance in the Home.

Miss Kuhns was also accepted, but her appointment was deferred until the next year, and in the interval she

was expected to spend a few months at the Moody Institute.

Miss Whetstone, having spent almost six years in Japan, returned to this country, and was present at this meeting. In presenting her report she stated that as most of her time while in Nagoya, owing to the existing circumstances, had been given to work which fell more immediately under the Board of Missions, she would accept no salary for six months of that period, and desired that it might be used toward the purchase of property at Nagoya for the Society.

The offer was kindly declined and full salary was paid. Miss Whetstone had made other generous offers toward the securing of property in Nagoya, but the Society thought best to move slowly, and although definite steps were taken in October, 1893, for the purchase of a lot in the same compound with the Board of Missions, yet it was recalled soon after, as it was thought that the unsettled state of affairs in Japan would operate against such plans.

Miss Whetstone's interesting letters, published from month to month in the *Woman's Missionary Record*, had done much to make the readers of that paper acquainted with the needs of Nagoya, and if circumstances had favored the outlay of money it is doubtless true that

enough would have been furnished to permit the erection of buildings for school purposes.

It had been Miss Whetstone's intention, after a few months' rest, to return to Miss Forrest, who was, in her absence, quite alone in her work, except the presence of the native teachers. Her application was accepted at this meeting, but the necessary funds for her passage not being in the treasury, she was held under appointment until the next annual meeting.

A Woman's Missionary Congress having been announced to take place in September of this year at Chicago, the Society appointed two of its officers and two members to represent it in that body, but none of them being able to do so except Mrs. D. S. Cramer, of Michigan, the Executive Committee appointed Mrs. E. F. St. John, of Kansas, and Mrs. B. H. Fink, of Pittsburg, who were duly accepted as delegates and creditably performed their duties and reported to the meeting the next year.

The question which had come up at several previous meetings concerning the formation of a woman's home missionary society, was again presented, and finally took form in an organization. The basis on which it was organized was somewhat different from that which was contemplated when the purpose was first conceived, it

being the desire at that time to take up work in the neglected portions of our own country. The General Conference of 1892 had taken action in regard to a woman's home missionary society, which should be an aid to the church's Board of Home Missions, and in compliance with that resolution the Society was organized; its Constitution, which was adopted the next year, is broad enough, however, to permit it to direct its efforts to any in our own country "who are destitute of gospel privileges."

A committee was appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, but the pressure of other business prevented this being done. Six rules were adopted, for the government of the Society during the year. Officers were elected, also an executive committee with fifteen members with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

During the year aid was given to one of our feeble churches in Texas and another in New Jersey. At the next annual meeting, by request of the Washington members, other officers were elected, and the headquarters changed to Adrian, Mich. The Society will hold its next annual meeting in Kansas City, Kan., 1896, at which time it will ask for the recognition of the General Conference, which also meets in that city. The Bridgeton meeting was one of great interest as well as of responsibility. The business occupied four days. The anni-

versary sermon was delivered on Sabbath morning by the pastor, Rev. W. D. Stultz. The Sunday schools were addressed by members of the Society and in the evening a praise and testimony service was held, after which the Lord's Supper was administered, a large and devout congregation participating.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The church at Adrian, Mich., the seat of Adrian College, invited the Society for the second time to the hospitalities of its members and friends—May 16-22, 1894. Delegates were present from fourteen Branches; two sent letters of greeting, the others were not reported. Three Western Branches were represented by delegates for the first time—West Michigan by Mrs. D. B. Clark, Kansas by Rev. Eugenia F. St. John, and South Illinois by Mrs. J. G. Reed. Miss Jennie White, of the Ohio Branch, was elected recording secretary. Mrs. D. S. Stephens gave an account of the Student Volunteer Convention, which met in Detroit in March, 1894, to which she had been sent by the Society. Miss Emma Painter was also present at the convention as a "Student Volunteer," from Adrian College. Her application as a missionary candidate was accepted at this meeting, and she was held under appointment until she should complete her course of studies at the college. Miss

Kuhns was instructed to proceed to Japan, in October, to take the place of Miss Rowe, who would retire from the work as soon as her successor could be initiated into her new duties.

Miss Rowe had been in the employ of the Society about three years and was a very acceptable worker. She was released from her contract, to be married, she having made all the restitution required by the rules.

It was decided to adopt a higher standard of educational attainments for missionaries, and this caused a readjustment of plans and consideration of some former resolutions.

At the Executive Committee meeting held in February 1895, a visit was received from the Rev. T. E. Coulbourn, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions. The plans of both Boards were discussed and some good suggestions were made by the secretary. His enthusiastic devotion to his work stimulated the committee to greater efforts and his remark that the Church Board might, in a short time, commence mission work in China, met with a responsive desire in the heart of every member that the Society might be able to follow the Board without delay; and at the annual meeting following, a resolution to that effect was adopted.

Mr. Coulbourn gave his hearty support to the Society.

His sympathy and co-operation gave him an esteemed place in the hearts of the committee. His pen and his influence were used for the promotion of the Society's efforts, as the following, taken from one of his published articles, shows :

"The number of missionaries employed by the Society is not as large as it should be; but that is no fault of theirs, but of the churches in withholding from them the means necessary to send out a larger number. It is perfectly plain, to such as give the matter serious attention, that neither pastors nor churches give to these devoted Christian workers the cordial sympathy and co-operation to which they are entitled. There ought not to be a church in the denomination without its Woman's Auxiliary Society; and, perhaps, there would be more of these Societies if pastors would give more encouragement to those who desire to organize them, and then take a little more interest in them after they are organized. No fear should be indulged that too many missionary agencies may be placed in the field. Agencies for giving the Gospel to the heathen cannot multiply too fast, or lay too heavy a tax upon the sympathy and generosity of the church."

Resolutions were adopted at this meeting in reference to the organizing of Junior Societies of Christian Endeavor. The necessity of giving more attention to the young people of our congregations was realized, and as the work among the children naturally comes within woman's province it was resolved to instruct Auxiliaries to seek the co-operation of pastors and superintendents

of Junior Societies and where there is no Junior organization to have one effected. It was also made the duty of the corresponding secretaries of Branches to take this work under their cognizance, assist the superintendents in providing suitable instruction for the children, inform them in regard to our home and foreign mission work, and encourage them to earn money for their contributions and seek in other ways to create an interest in mission work. For the purpose of bringing about a closer union of interest with the young people, it was further resolved that each superintendent of a Junior C. E. Society and Mission Band, also the chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Y. P. S. C. E., be *ex-officio* vice president of the Auxiliary.

The Adrian meeting occupied four days. Many plans were discussed, for increasing a missionary spirit among our churches; for the apparent decrease in the number of Auxiliaries and members, and but little increase in receipts indicated a need of stronger, aggressive movements on the part of the Society in order to keep pace with the work abroad.

The anniversary sermon on this occasion was delivered by Rev. Eugenia F. St. John, of the Kansas Branch, to a full house. Her text was from Luke ii: 49: "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." She

also occupied the pulpit on Sabbath evening very acceptably, the pastor of the church, Rev. O. V. W. Chandler, kindly and courteously giving to the Society his time and the influence of his hearty co-operation in all their efforts.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

Invitations had been presented from three places, for the sixteenth annual meeting, namely: Lafayette Avenue Church, Baltimore, by Mrs. Baynes, Gordon Place, Kansas City, by Mrs. St. John, and Mt. Cory, Ohio, by Miss Jane Whetstone. The distance and expense being considered as well as the accommodation of the greatest number, it was decided to accept the invitation from Lafayette Avenue Church, and in accordance with that election, the Society convened in that place, May 15th, 1895.

The interest in the Society's success was shown, not only by a large representation from Branches, but by the presence of ministers and friends from a distance and a large attendance from the city churches. Mrs. Baynes, president of the Branch, extended a cordial welcome to all, which was responded to by Mrs. Morgan-McCaslin, of Indiana Branch.

Mrs. J. T. Murray, president *emeritus*, of the Maryland Branch, was present at one of the sessions, although

in feeble health. Her presence brought to the older members a pleasing remembrance of former meetings, and was an encouragement to them in this labor of love, in which they had toiled and prayed together in loving solicitude. We did not know the end of life was so near to her for the same cheerful, hopeful spirit, so characteristic, was still present, and we thought many years of useful influence were before her, but in the following November she was called to quit the scene of earthly labor and enter upon the life for which she had so faithfully lived.

Secretary Coulbourn gave a short address in which he strongly urged aggressive efforts on the part of the Society in order to keep up with the work abroad. He suggested that it might be a good plan to consolidate the Board and the Society, and instead of having two missionary publications—the *Missionary Bulletin* and the *Record*—to unite and publish one paper.

Mrs. St. John, of the Kansas Branch, responded on behalf of the Society. She assured the Secretary of the hearty co-operation of the Society and of its desire to continue to work in harmonious connection with the Board, but she thought to develop the highest good in the Society it would be better for it to maintain a separate existence, as the women need this schooling in self-reliance in their own work. So, too, they prefer to edit

and conduct their own paper that it may reflect in its columns woman's own thought.

The response was received by the genial Secretary in the same good spirit in which it was given. He commended the Society for its recent additions to its corps of teachers in Japan, and stated that letters received from the superintendent of the mission were highly commendatory of woman's work.

This was also the last meeting with the Society for the devoted secretary, Bro. Coulbourn, for death came suddenly in February, 1896, after attending the Pennsylvania Conference, and before he reached his home. Sweet-spirited and gentle, he had won all hearts that had come under his influence, and while he has entered on the reward of his labors, the good he has done still lives on.

Since our last meeting Death has reaped a rich harvest among our beloved workers. Mrs. J. E. Libbey, of Washington City, has also answered the summons from the Father, and her place among us is vacant. She was a warm friend of the Society, and many of us, hitherto strangers to her, had learned to love her from meeting with her from time to time at our annual gatherings.

The resignation of the editor of *Woman's Missionary Record* had been presented to the Publication Commit-

tee in February, 1895, with the request that it take effect at the close of the *Record's* fiscal year June 30th. In the discussion which followed the presentation of the Committee's report, relative to continuing the *Record*, it was stated that a proposition had been made by the church's two official papers, by which, if the *Record* should be discontinued, a monthly supplement entirely devoted to missionary interests, and to woman's work in particular, would be added to these papers. The *Record's* subscription list would be accepted, and the missionary number sent for the unexpired term of each subscriber. The question was discussed with much animation, a number being favorable to the proposition; but it was urged by others that as the *Record* had sustained itself for the previous two years its discontinuance would be detrimental to the Society's interests. It was therefore resolved to continue it, and Rev. Matilda McBride, of Kansas City, was elected editor.

The number of names on the *Record's* subscription list was 1600, but a large number of these were delinquent. The publisher, desiring to retain every name possible, had carried them along, hoping that each month her appeals for renewals would be complied with, but at this meeting the Society took action for the reducing of the list, and at the time of the transfer it num-

bered 1300 names. Mrs. B. H. Fink was the able manager of the *Record* during the two years previous to its removal from Pittsburg, and great credit is due her for her careful conduct of its financial affairs. She was untiring in her efforts for its success. She brought to its management rare business qualifications and a determined purpose to know no discouragements. Under her care it became self-sustaining, there being no salaried offices except that of the business manager.

The attention of the Society was directed to the fact that but few of our own leaflets had been published. To call forth thought on this subject, Mrs. St. John presented a resolution asking that the General Secretary present the matter to the various Branches requesting them to contribute to a fund for the publication of such tracts and leaflets as might be accepted by the committee.

The discussion of the question developed the thought, long felt by the leaders of this movement, that a greater love for our own denominational literature should be inculcated so that a desire to know of our own church interests, and especially of its missionary interests might result; for in the proportion in which this knowledge is spread, just in that proportion will intelligent zeal follow.

The publishing of our own paper and leaflets, and giving encouragement to the literary talent in our own church have not had the sanction which their importance demands, and should the discontinuance of our paper, which is now the only missionary paper in the denomination, be decided upon it certainly shows a lack of that aggressive spirit which should characterize a young and growing church. In the sphere of missions, woman's work has a distinctive place; and to succeed there is needed all the helps and appliances which have been found, and are still being found, of so great benefit in other denominations. The policy of the Society which has been preserved from the beginning, viz.: that none of the funds contributed for missions shall be used for keeping up the interest at home, is of doubtful economy. In order that the trite phrase, that "it requires ninety-five cents to send one dollar to the mission field," should not have the slightest exemplification in the Society, has led to a most rigid economy to preserve intact the *one dollar*. The Secretary's report read at this meeting touches on this point where she says: "It may be false economy to send all our funds to foreign lands and not retain enough to repair, at least, our working machinery. A successful seedsman does not sell all his fertilizing material to his patrons, but he enriches his own deep

furrows so that the seeds and plants he brings to market will be the best, and mankind be benefitted."

Giving to the foreign mission cause carries with it a sentiment which it seems to lose when it comes to giving to any of the needed enterprises at home by which the success of the foreign work is made possible.

There have been presented at our annual meetings, from year to year, excellent papers; also practical sermons have been delivered on our anniversary occasions; stories have been written and various helps for Auxiliaries, all worthy of being preserved in permanent form, but for want of funds they remain unpublished. Some good has been accomplished by the literature of other societies, which, to some extent, has been purchased and supplied to our Auxiliaries through our Leaflet Committee, of which Mrs. T. G. Valiant, of Washington City, is the efficient secretary.

The pastor of the church, Rev. J. W. Kirk, delivered an appropriate sermon, and in the evening Rev. Eugenia St. John preached the anniversary sermon to an overflowing congregation.

By a comparison of the reports of the different Corresponding Secretaries as presented at the annual meetings year by year, it will be seen that practical missionary work had very materially changed the character of

these. The early reports lacked the facts requisite for an inspiring account of efforts abroad, and of necessity were simply addresses, containing such thoughts as might serve to stimulate to greater exertion. As the years passed on, the broadening of our work through new opportunities, the interesting letters from our missionaries, their urgent appeals for help, all gave a practical turn to thought and effort, and they now afford ample material for the Secretary's pen. From the foreign correspondence she can cull information which gives a better idea of the nature and condition of our work than can be gained from any other source. It has been well said that *appeals* and *prophecy* are giving way to *facts* and *figures*.

The following concerning our school is taken from the fifteenth annual report as presented by Mrs. D. S. Stephens.

"The foreign work in some parts is in a prosperous condition. Perhaps at no time have the reports been so satisfactory and encouraging. Miss Rowe retains her high standing as an educated worker. Miss Annette E. Lawrence, who was present with you at the Board meeting last May, has been with Miss Rowe since October. The time has been happily and profitably spent. Her chief work during the year has been the study of the language, with some school and evangelistic work. The teachers are congenial in their companionship, and

harmony and peace have existed in the school. The school has averaged about thirty pupils. Two of the most intelligent native workers were lost to the Society by marriage, although they remain in the church, O Taka San and Ko Tamura. Nine girls have been engaged a part of the time in week day evangelistic work and all except the very small ones assist in Sunday school work. Seven Sunday schools are supplied with teachers principally from our school. About eight of the girls have applied to be taken into the church. Some have been baptized and taken into full membership. Others are on probation. A King's Daughter's circle has been organized among the older girls of the school which promises to be very helpful. A Junior Christian Endeavor Society has been organized by one of the Japanese girls, consisting of her Sunday school class and the smaller pupils of the school. Two women's meetings are conducted regularly each week, both of which are well sustained and productive of good. Miss Lawrence also assists in the mission work at Uchidacho Chapel. The scholarships that have been taken are of great benefit to our work. We have in all about fifteen girls in the school who are being assisted in this way. There is urgent need for six more to be taken. These bright, intelligent girls come to us seeking an education. Sometimes they are brought by parents, and friends who feel the responsibility of providing for their welfare, but are unable to carry the burden. Some are rescued from being sold into a life of shame by heartless parents for a mere pittance. It is not altogether a work of pure charity. These girls when they finish their course in the school give back a year of work for each year's education received. There is no work a missionary can do that is more profitable to true evangelization and missions, than the work of native Bible readers, and house to house visitation. The girls

are very loyal to their schools and benefactors. Kindergarten work is gaining some importance in Japan, although no very extensive work has been done as there is difficulty in obtaining the consent of the government to establish schools.

"The work at Nagoya is in a crippled condition, owing to several reasons. The fact of our having no buildings of our own is a great drawback. . . . The school last year at Nagoya, comprising some fifty-six boys and girls under the superintendency of Misses Forrest and Whetstone, gave promise for usefulness and permanency. Miss Whetstone returned to this country and Miss Forrest was left alone in the work. In September the Japanese who had the school in his name took possession and full control. From ten to fifteen of the children followed Miss Forrest. She has been laboring alone through this year with this small nucleus of a school, under expense and very discouraging circumstances. The rules for school work have been somewhat changed lately. In order to get permission from the Government to establish a school it must pass through the hands of the man the missionary is under. This man wanted to put on considerable additional expense to the school for teachers, which Miss Forrest could not consent to, so the school has been carried on at her home in a quiet way. No doubt, many of you will think the efforts of the Society at this point fruitless. Miss Forrest is not an organizer or a teacher in the full acceptance of those terms; she has more the capabilities of an evangelist. Some good results have come from the work at Nagoya, souls of men, women and children have been saved. They can testify to the saving grace of the Lord brought to them through the endeavor of the missionaries of this Society. If you have not a flourishing school you have been the means of bringing

from darkness some souls, and there is rejoicing in the Kingdom of God over one soul redeemed. There is work to accomplish in Nagoya. It is a city of more than three hundred thousand people, ninety-nine per cent of whom never saw a Bible or heard a gospel sermon. It is one of the wealthiest and most important districts of Japan."

In the sixteenth and last annual report Mrs. Stephens says, in speaking of the small proportion of women in our church, who are interested in foreign missions:

"In our church, with its membership of 170,000, we would claim at least one-third to be women. In the membership of this Society we have but 2,500, representing, as the Society does, nineteen conferences. This seems like a very small proportion. Does this truly represent all who feel an interest in helping to spread this message of salvation? Oh, women of the church, God's approval cannot rest on us while we are so indifferent in carrying out the command of our Lord. Cannot we rally in numbers and strength? Is there not some way to secure our women to devote a part of their interests to missions? It appears like a dark shadow hanging over what might be a successful work, when but one or two Auxiliaries of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society exist in one of our largest conferences, and two other conferences among the most influential will allow the work to become almost extinct. We have need of more help, and perhaps it has never been so urgent as now. New work is almost impossible and our established work is greatly hindered. When the blood begins to flow feebly in the extremities, the feebleness soon reaches the heart.

"Constant expansion should be our worthy aim. The thought has come, why not make a bold move through-

out the conferences, reorganizing and building up; visiting churches, Christian Endeavor Conventions and especially looking after Junior Endeavor work. Our methods have been too economical, we have not expended money or used lubricating oils enough to keep our machinery in good running order. It is true, we have boasted that all our moneys go to our mission fields—that no officer of the Society is salaried. Noble women have consecutively given their time, talent and money to the calls of this Society since its birth, sixteen years ago.

“Our honored treasurer has faithfully attended to the finances of the Society during these years. Has received and disbursed nearly \$56,000 without the loss of a cent or one being paid her for faithful service rendered.”

The latest report which Mrs. Stephens has given us says :

“Our work in the foreign field is in good condition notwithstanding the changes occurring in the management at both points. Miss Margaret M. Kuhns made application to the Board for work at the meeting in Bridgeton, N. J., in 1893. The application was accepted after the required examinations. The months of July, August and September, 1894, were passed by her at the Moody Bible Institute, in Chicago, in preparation for the duties that were waiting her. In October she sailed for Japan, arriving safely in Yokohama. She immediately took charge of the mission school. On her arrival, Miss Amelia J. Rowe was released from her contract for eight years to return to this country, having passed but three years in the work. She made all honorable amends for the breaking of the contract as required by the rules. She is now married and living in Newport, R. I. Miss Kuhns found the school in Yokohama in excellent work-

ing order, showing the able management the work had received from the persons who had preceded her. The number of pupils enrolled at present is thirty-nine, of which twenty-nine reside in the building, leaving ten as day students. Nine of the girls work in the Sunday schools connected with our church, in some places having entire charge of the school and teaching. Seven of the girls are capable and do house to house visitation, distributing tracts, holding little meetings and inviting people to church and Sunday school, and it is said they are a blessing to the church by increasing the attendance, interest and membership. The number of classes are necessarily many and small, as the girls are received at all ages and advancement. They have three regular teachers employed, with a teacher in drawing and Chinese characters, besides the two members of the post-graduate class, who each teach some classes. Numbers are seeking admission, six are now waiting for some generous heart to open and maintain them. The little unfortunates have been taken in with the belief they have been sent from the Lord.

“The great blessing that rests upon the school is the deep spirituality of the girls, and the earnestness with which they undertake whatever is given them to do. During the year two of the girls, O Ume San and O Chika San, who have been educated in the school and whose names are familiar to you, married Christian gentlemen. These women are now prepared to found a Christian home and show the influence of a Christian education.

“The King’s Daughters have a prosperous society in the midst of these Japanese girls. They number about twenty, and it would be beneficial to both parties if some of the circles in our home churches could come in contact with these daughters through correspondence.

"The work in Nagoya had also to undergo a change of management. Miss Annie L. Forrest, whose contract of five years expired in September, 1894, returned to her home in Littlestown, Pa. According to the instruction received at the last Board meeting Annette E. Lawrence, who had been associate teacher at Yokohama, took charge of this point. Since her arrival she has been making strenuous efforts to gain some permanent foothold in the work of building up this, to us, unapproachable place. Instead of having an assistant from this country, she requested that five of the native girls, who had been educated in the Home at Yokohama, be sent her, she believing that more good could be accomplished at present under this arrangement. These girls are working in the capacity of Bible readers, with daily house to house visitations. The school that was under our name was being conducted without government permission, and was ordered to be closed. Miss Lawrence is of the opinion that our best method of work for the present is that of Bible and evangelistic work. There are six bright girls seeking admission to our school in Yokohama. Will some kind and generous friends provide for them? Pittsburg Branch supports thirteen scholarships; Maryland Branch, four; North Illinois Branch, two; Genesee Branch, one; Iowa Branch, one; Ohio Branch, one; Michigan Branch, one; Muskingum Branch, two; and one is maintained by Mrs. A. J. Huntington."

It has been difficult to give a correct summary of the Society's work because of a lack of complete statistics from Branches. In this sixteenth annual meeting, and the last which comes within the province of the historian of this volume, there were nineteen Branches represented by del-

legates or by letters; and two, the Minnesota and the West Virginia, although not reported by letter, had received credits for money sent to the general treasury. Twenty-four members were present—the largest representation had at any annual meeting.

There are yet thirty conferences in which there is no Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The number of members in nineteen Branches is 2,500. The number of Auxiliaries is about 200. The Mission Bands have, as a general thing, been merged into Junior Societies of Christian Endeavor. The number of life members is 225; memorial members, 20; honorary managers, 8. These figures do not include those of the current year. In October, 1895, Miss Alice Coates was sent to Yokohama, making in all eight missionaries who have gone to Japan under the auspices of the Society.

The next annual meeting will convene in Kansas City, Kan., on May 20, 1896.

The receipts to the general fund since the date of organization are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| 1879-80 | \$ 381.16 | 1882-83 | 2,251.79 |
| 1880-81 | 1,380 16 | 1883-84 | 2,118.37 |
| 1881-82 | 1,838.48 | 1884-85 | 3,189.16 |
| 1885-86 | 3,292.50 | 1890-91 | 3,897.15 |

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|----------|
| 1886-87 | 3,217.98 | 1891-92 | 3,647.66 |
| 1887-88 | \$3,955.23 | 1892-93 | 3,720.42 |
| 1888-89 | 3,483.71 | 1893-94 | 3,628.20 |
| 1889-90 | 3,490.07 | 1894-95 | 3,201.56 |

The amount raised for building purposes is about \$10,000, of which \$8,000 has been expended.

PRESENT BOARD OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

President—Mrs. F. A. Brown, Cardington, Ohio.

Vice President-at-Large—Mrs. M. A. Miller, Kansas City, Kan.

Recording Secretary—Miss Jennie White, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. D. S. Stephens, Sharpsburg, Pa.

Treasurer—Mrs. J. D. Anderson, Pittsburg, Pa.

Building Fund Treasurer—Mrs. C. B. Fornshil, Baltimore, Md.

Auditor—Mrs. J. E. Palmer, Allegheny, Pa.

Mrs. T. H. Colhouer, Pittsburg, S. S., Pa.

Mrs. J. J. Murray, Union Bridge, Md.

Miss S. A. Lipscomb, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. N. R. Seeman, Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. M. J. Morgan-McCaslin, Greenwood, Ind.

Mrs. I. D. Coxson, Moorestown, N. J.

Mrs. G. B. Dotson, Mechanicsburg, O.

Miss Mary Moall, Greece, N. Y.

A retrospect of the work shows what has been done through a partially organized effort, and is an earnest of what might be done if all the conferences were organized into active Branches. Personal work and visitation

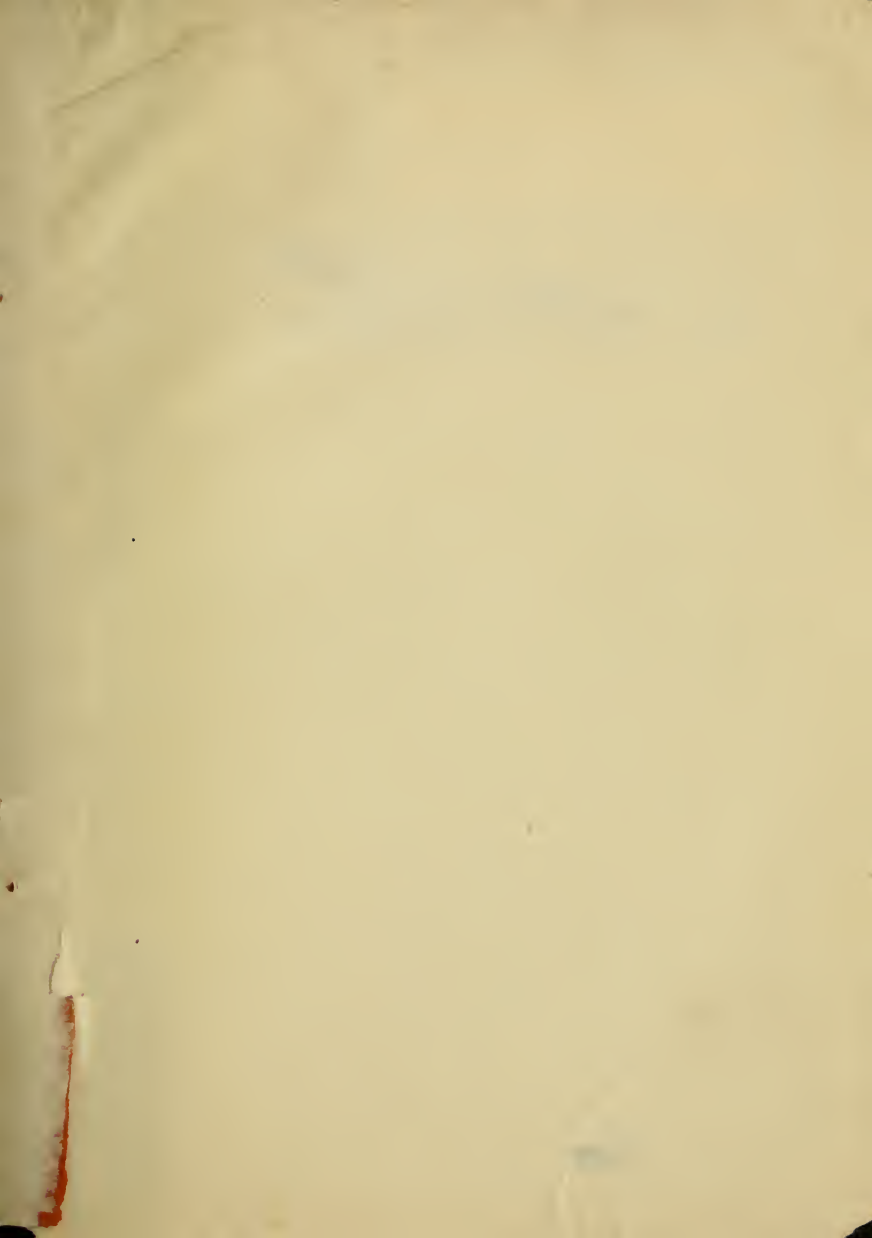
among the congregations by an organizer has been found to be the best method for accomplishing organization. Our workers are ready and willing to go, but the money to meet expenses is lacking. How to increase the contingent fund is the ever-recurring question, for it is from this alone that we are permitted to take funds for this purpose.

The work of the historian is imperfectly done. Much has resulted from this work for Christ which cannot be transcribed. The faithful laborers know of the blessings which have come to their own hearts through their efforts to obey the Savior's commands, and how heart has become knit to heart as we have mingled together in quarterly and annual meetings. The result, socially, in our churches, is not one of the least of the benefits. Through this instrumentality persons who had been in the church for years, and comparative strangers to one another, have been brought to an acquaintance, and the work has developed gifts and talents of whose existence we were entirely ignorant. These workers know something of the benevolence of heart it has called forth, the sacrifices that have been made and the plans that have been devised that offerings might be brought into the treasury. They know that this sympathy with Christ's cause is moulding the

sisterhood of the church into a loving unity of purpose, and giving a breadth of soul which claims "all the world for Christ." O for a power to arouse and unite our entire membership together in the one common purpose of gaining the world for Christ both at home and abroad ! O for the power to call into the Lord's treasury all the tithes that rightfully belong there !

If even the *sisters* throughout our denomination would accept this work from the Lord, their influence would spread through the entire membership, and we could rejoice in the prospect of the church's future, for the Lord will assuredly bless that church which is working with him for the redemption of the lost.

*"O Lord, I beseech thee, send prosperity
that thy way may be known upon earth, and
thy saving health among all nations."*



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